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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

WE follow our usual custom when a number of subjects of about equal importance are before the public, and proceed to discuss them in a group.

No doubt as the spring advances something more decided will be forthcoming from the Powers with whom it lies to reassure or to disturb the world; but at present the uncertainty still continues, and the world is kept in a suspense damaging to commerce and to all the ordinary interests of mankind. Two facts reported from France are most unsatisfactory. The first is the raising of the sum fixed for exemption from the conscription. Heavily as this already pressed on the French peasantry—and calculated as it was to drain the class—its being increased is a sign that a great army is, above everything, a need of the Empire, and that, compared with that, no considerations of social ease or social morality are thought worthy of attention by the Government. But why should this be so? or how should an empire which professes to be built on peace require to go to such gigantic lengths in one direction? Perhaps our second fact throws a light on it. That is the indubitable one that the northern coast of France is still continuing to be fortified, while the maritime conscription is at a very high standard. France, we must suppose, expects a war; and as nobody here thinks of our volunteering to begin one the inference is pretty obvious. There is nothing warlike in repeating the cautions founded on such circumstances. On the contrary, the more we neglect them the more likely is the peace of Europe to be disturbed. Nor need we vex ourselves overmuch if, as some people think, all this menacing conduct of the Emperor is only intended to tickle his mob, without ulterior consequences. We can afford to gratify this cheap and nasty vanity better than he can afford to continue indulging it. Our defensive preparations are, indeed, a heavy insurance to pay; but, then, we have a life and a property worth insuring; a liberty which the French never had, and a glory which is in great part their shame; whereas the Napoleonic extravagance is draining the provinces of its youth, and stunting the growth of all those interests the development of which might elevate France beyond a system of despotism which hides under military glitter an individual insignificance and meanness below the general level of European society.

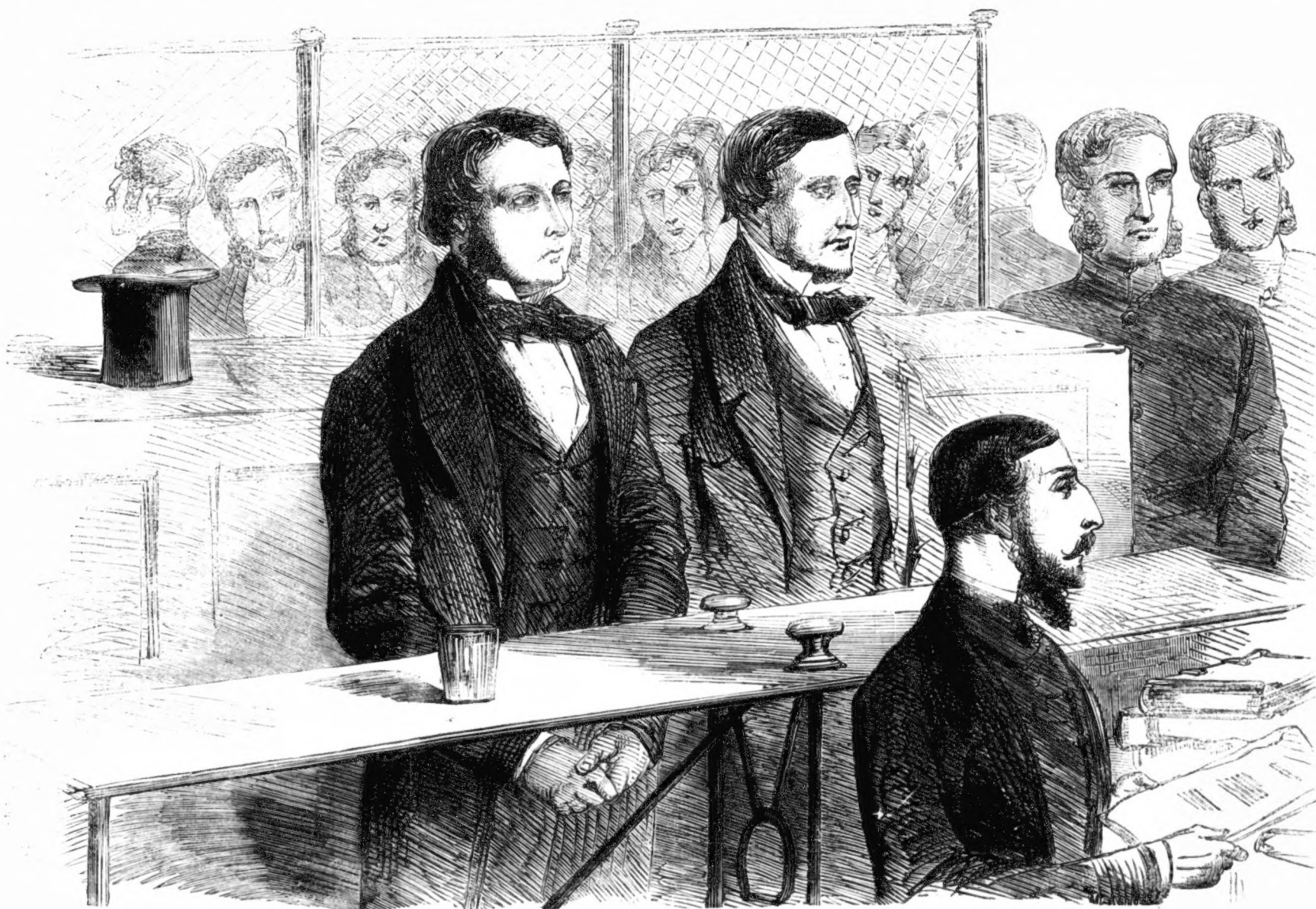
It is painful to observe how little our treaty seems likely to

do for those great objects which it was brought forward to achieve. The French commercial classes take very little to the changes proposed; while they are so slow as regards any fruit to our own people that they excite only the faintest enthusiasm on this side of the Channel. No doubt the general object has been good all along. It is good that England and France should trade more together, and it would be well if larger trade should lead to sincerer friendship. But it is a very dangerous thing to attempt to put such harmless and respectable truisms into an act of special legislation. All the circumstances have to be considered, and in this case the circumstances could hardly have been more unfavourable. In the first place, we tied ourselves to France while she was pursuing an aggressive foreign policy. In the second place, we began a financial experiment at a period when our finances required the most steady-going, prudent handling. The right time to speculate is when you can afford a loss; but Mr. Gladstone went on the gambling principle of trying for great things at a great hazard. In the event of a miss he will have placed the country in about as bad a position as can well be. Either some mighty advantages (the signs of which are slow in presenting themselves) must be forthcoming, or there will be a deficit to deal with which it will be exceedingly hard to contrive expediently to meet. The income tax is impatiently tolerated. The people have got schooled to look regularly for reductions in indirect taxation. Of course there are some politicians ready to ask us to get over the difficulty by abandoning our defences. But we hope never to see the Ship of the State in that last desperate plight when it will be necessary to throw the guns overboard! A ship is near wrecking when it comes to that. We need not repeat every week, what has often been urged in these columns before, that (apart from any immediate symptoms in France) the signs of the times point to a period when we must not be found wanting in strength. The Eastern question bids fair to open again, under worse auspices for us than last time; India is still unsettled; there are points to arrange with America; the south of Europe will be a source of uneasiness for many a day; and, speaking generally, the old system of the Continent is breaking up.

The minor points of the Budget—the Paper Duty, the Wine Licenses—have been frequently discussed by us earlier in the Session. They are points on which it is difficult—we do not

say merely to say anything new, but to say anything old in a new way. If moral and social considerations be allowed force against any special impost, that impost is the paper duty, which checks the manufacture and raises the price of books, and keeps down the spread of periodicals, all at once. Then, as to allowing wine to be sold more generally, we have asked repeatedly what harm is possible from liquor that is not possible as things are? What more on earth would the public drunkard have than two or three taverns in every street to enter, or the private drunkard than the same establishments to send to? For our part, we think the fuss a mighty exaggeration. Nobody who does not tipple already will be taught to tipple in this climate by cheap southern wine; but there are some who would like to have that luxury, and why should not they? The Budget may be a great mistake altogether, but this, at least, is the most defensible part of it, as it seems to us.

So much for the more prominent subjects of this week. Perhaps our readers will expect from us some remarks on the question relating to the Press opened by Mr. Horsman's grievance against the *Times*. We are not fond of discussing what to us are personal questions; but we have always defended what is called the anonymous system, on the ground that it gives us just that honest amount of protection which is given to the parson by his cloth and the barrister by his gown. That it does not do more the courts of law will always take care in cases where personal character is assailed by a newspaper. But, if the public character of public men is sacred, why have a Press at all? If every individual writer is to be singled out by the rich and powerful and kept in check, it is not his freedom of action only that will be interfered with, but that of all those whose ear he has got by his ability, and whom he represents precisely in proportion as they choose to be influenced by him. Holding these opinions, we cannot approve Mr. Horsman's style of warfare against individuals, which is simply a vindictive egotism, the fruit of passion and of pride. But the episode was, by its novelty, worthy the observation of the student of the House of Commons. It suggests the possibility of a time coming when the Press will be to that House what the House itself was in olden times to the Crown—a bulwark against its encroachments, demanding and deserving the support of the country even more than now.



PULLINGER.

DETECTIVE OFFICER.

EXAMINATION OF PULLINGER, THE FRAUDULENT CASHIER OF THE UNION BANK.

THE UNION BANK FRAUDS.

The case against Pullinger was concluded at the Mansion House on Friday (the 4th), when the accompanying Sketch of this distinguished culprit was taken. Lytleton, also a cashier of the bank, was arraigned with him. Pullinger, several times during the proceedings, expressed his determination to plead guilty, and refused to allow any professional gentleman to appear for him personally; but he authorised Mr. Humphreys, a solicitor, to attend, and in his name to exonerate his fellow-prisoner from any complicity in the fraud. William Gomma, a cashier at the bank, said that in balancing the accounts and notes in the till of the cashiers, on the 12th of April, he discovered a deficiency of £350, which, on being mentioned to Pullinger, was explained by him as the amount of notes paid out for miscellaneous bills. It was proved by subsequent witnesses that two of these notes were paid by Pullinger to James Sheldon and Robert Johnson, two brokers to whom the prisoner owed money, and that the prisoner did not, as he represented, pay the money into the bank. This being the case for the prosecution, as far as regarded the charge in which Pullinger alone was concerned, the prisoner was asked if he had any questions to put?

Prisoner—My Lord, my intention is to plead guilty.

The Lord Mayor—But you might wish to put some questions?

Prisoner—No, my Lord. I do not wish to give any unnecessary trouble.

The depositions were then read over and signed, and Pullinger was committed for trial on the charge of having stolen £350.

Frederick John Lytleton was then placed in the dock, and both were charged with having stolen £3000, the property of the Union Bank. The deputy manager of the bank produced a cash-book kept by Lytleton, in which there was the following entry:—"April 25th, 1859. Debit Bank of England £3000 gold;" and on the same day "S. and M. £500," as an exchange of notes for gold, the initials representing the firm of Samuel and Montague, bullion-dealers, Cornhill. On the 27th April there were two exchanges entered, one "E. C. R. (Eastern Counties Railway), £1500," and the other "S. M. (Samuel and Montague), £1000." The evidence of other witnesses showed that the £3000 was paid to Pullinger by Lytleton, to be paid to the Bank of England, which was not done; that the alleged exchanges of notes for gold were false, the notes having been in reality paid into the bank without exchanges, and appropriated by Pullinger, who, it was proved, paid them to brokers with whom he had had transactions.

During the hearing of the case Mr. Humphreys said he attended by Pullinger's desire to state that the charge against his co-prisoner was unfounded. Lytleton had never put a shilling of the money into his pocket, but acted in obedience to the orders of Pullinger, who was his superior. The Lord Mayor, having heard the remainder of the evidence, said there was nothing to prove collusion on the part of Lytleton. He had, perhaps, been guilty of indiscretion in paying so large a sum of money to the other prisoner without inquiry, but that was not evidence, and he could not, therefore, commit him. The Lord Mayor added that Lytleton left the court as free from stain as when he entered it. Pullinger, having been asked if he had anything to say, replied, "Only that I plead guilty to this charge, my Lord." He was then committed for trial; and on Tuesday a grand jury returned three true bills against him.

The strangest stories are in circulation with reference to this case, but the strangest of them is not so strange as the naked fact that this man was able to embezzle upwards of a quarter of a million of money the property of a joint-stock bank. Some will have it that twenty or thirty other people are implicated in the frauds—at least, to the extent of having received hush-money for their silence. Others tell you, again, that Pullinger might well have carried on his frauds without any assistance at all, or at most with the help of a single person skilled in the unholy mysteries of forgery. It has been stated as a matter exceeding the limits of credibility that, during the five years over which Pullinger's frauds extended, some person or other in the Bank of England who knew the exact state of the balance held by that corporation in favour of the Union Bank should not have seen the accounts issued by the directors of the Union Bank to their shareholders. The reply is, that these accounts are so made up that neither the Bank of England nor any person who had not access to the books of the Union Bank could have dissected out the actual balance attributed to the Bank of England from the accounts. Then, again, what did Pullinger do with this enormous sum of money which he had embezzled? The committee of the Stock Exchange have held a meeting upon the subject of course, with the intention of dealing very summarily with any broker who had lent himself to Pullinger as an agent for his frauds; but we also know from a published letter, asking for better and fuller information, that no evidence was laid before them upon which they could act. These gentlemen, as we have been given to understand, entertain—or, at least, entertained—the most serious doubts whether the money of the shareholders of the Union Bank had been made away with upon the Stock and Share Market at all. It is asserted, on the other hand, that Pullinger carried on his dealings through outsiders and third parties; and the name of one person, since deceased, is mentioned as having been that of the man who first opened the door of speculation to the fraudulent cashier of the Union Bank. If the money was not lost on the Share Market, where was it lost? Some say upon the turf; others that Pullinger was in the habit of gambling for stakes of portentous amount. It should be added that we do not pretend to give any of these reports as substantially true, but rather as samples and specimens of the thousand and one stories which are flying about town in connection with the name and dealings of this high-flying rogue. Unless Pullinger himself makes a clean breast of it, it is more than doubtful if the truth ever will be known, for it is not very probable that his accomplices, if any such there were, will denounce themselves.

There is a very general impression that Pullinger still has the control of a considerable portion of the embezzled money; and this opinion is strengthened by the fact that in his operations upon the turf he was a winner, and that he won considerable sums by backing the lucky racehorse Fisherman, who has run winner a great many times, and frequently with long odds against him. "Argus," the sporting correspondent of the *Post*, says that Pullinger "never saw a race in his life, although he had Cleopatra and several others in training in connection with a gentleman at Reading."

DISTURBANCES IN NEW ZEALAND.—The *New Zealander* of February 27 published at Auckland, contains an account of the insurrection of the natives in the province of Taranaki, who had taken up arms against the Queen's forces to prevent the survey of a portion of land at Waitara by the Government agents. It appears that the leader of the insurrection is Wiremu Kingi, who had excited the natives to resist the survey, although he had no claim to the land in question. Colonel Murray (the officer commanding the detachment of the 65th Regiment at New Plymouth) had issued a proclamation declaring martial law. Wiremu Kingi had been summoned to apologise for the obstruction offered by his people to the survey; but, instead of doing so, he declared that they would resist it. He did not desire war, and loved the white people very much, but he would keep the land. According to the *New Zealander*, the obstruction of the sale of land by the natives is a direct violation of the treaty of Waitangi. Colonel Murray was making arrangements to overcome the resistance of the natives.

SUPPOSED WRECK OF THE SHIP "BURMAH."—It is feared that the ship *Burmah* is lost. She sailed from Gravesend on the 26th of August last, with twenty-three passengers and thirty-two hands, with a general cargo, fifteen horses valued at two thousand guineas, and nineteen bulls valued at seven hundred and fifty guineas. Nothing has been heard of her since the 17th of November, when she was spoken with by the *Regina*, Captain Thornton, bound to Lytleton, some ten or twelve days' sail from New Zealand. Captain Thornton encountered a quantity of ice which lay in the track of the missing ship, and it is feared she encountered it, and thus perished.

LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT.—One of those lamentable accidents which have been far too frequent lately—accidents occasioned by the falling of buildings—took place in Lombard-street on Saturday. The upper floor of one of the houses lately in the occupation of the London and County Bank, and which was being demolished, gave way beneath the weight of the rubbish which was placed upon it, the result being the immediate death of one man, and the serious injury of several others. It appears that the demolition of houses is not within the jurisdiction of district surveyors.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree fixing the individual payment for exemption from military service at 2300 francs, and the bounty on re-engagement for seven years' service at 2000 francs. Thus the redemption-money and the bounty are both increased. The *Moniteur* explains the reason why such a measure has become necessary—namely, that the number of young men who availed themselves of the redemption system at the last recruiting, immediately before the Italian war, had been so uncommonly great.

The Superior Council of Commerce, which has been appointed to make investigations relative to the execution of the treaty of commerce with England, assembled on Monday last, and will in future regularly meet on Monday, Thursday, and Friday in each week.

France has given way on two important points concerning the settlement of the new boundary line between France and Sardinia. France had asked that the fort of Escailon on Mount Cenis, built in 1816 with French money, should be included in the annexation. The Sardinian Government, considering that from Lanslebourg to Turin is a distance of only three days' march, insisted upon keeping it. It has now been agreed that the fort shall be razed to the ground. The other concession regards Vintimiglia, the claim of Count Cavour to which, as a "thoroughly Italian town," has been admitted.

The *Patrie* believes itself correct in stating that no decision has yet been taken relative to the evacuation of Rome. The same paper says that Marshal M'Mahon will take the command of the camp of Châlons at the beginning of June next.

SPAIN.

The Paris papers publish the following as the renunciation by Count Montemolin of his pretensions to the throne of Spain:—

I, the undersigned, Charles Louis de Bourbon and de Bragança, Count of Montemolin, declare, in the face of the world, publicly and solemnly, that, intimately convinced of the futility of the various attempts which have been made in favour of the claims which I think I have to the succession to the throne of Spain, and desiring that, neither for myself nor in my name, public tranquillity shall be further disturbed nor the calm and quiet of my country, whose happiness I have at heart, from my own free will, and by spontaneous and unshackled desire—so that the detention I am now suffering may prove no obstacle—I solemnly renounce, now and for ever, the said claim, protesting that this sacrifice, which I lay upon the altar of my country, is the result of the conviction which I have acquired in the last abortive attempt, that the efforts which might be made in my favour would always lead to civil war, which I wish to avoid at all price.

Consequently I pledge my word of honour henceforth never to consent to my flag being hoisted in Spain or in its States; and I declare that if, unhappily, some one should at a future time make use of my name with that object, I should regard him as an enemy of my honour and reputation.

I also declare that, as soon as I am restored to the full enjoyment of my liberty, I will renew my present voluntary renunciation, so that at no time my free will in making it may be called in question. May the happiness and prosperity of my country be the reward of this sacrifice!

Done at Tortosa, April 23, 1860.

CARLOS LUIS DE BOURBON ET DE BRAGANÇA.

The renunciation of Don Ferdinand is couched in the same terms. The Madrid papers correctly remark that such a declaration would have come with better grace if it had been made before the execution of the Count's partisans. It is thought that Don Juan, brother to the Count de Montemolin, will not assent to the abdication of the elder branch of the family. The Count and Don Ferdinand embarked at Tortosa on the 7th. Their destination was unknown.

We must add that in Legitimist circles the reported renunciation of the Count de Montemolin is positively denied.

A despatch from Madrid of the 9th says:—"Yesterday 300 men belonging to the disciplinary companies rose at Alcalá de Henares. The Civic Guard has re-established order, but not without lamentable incidents."

ITALY.

SARDINIA.

The King arrived at Turin on Tuesday evening. It will be seen by our report of the turn affairs have taken with regard to Sicily that new cares are laid on his Majesty's shoulders.

The result of the elections is favourable to the Ministry, but a strong opposition to Cavour has arisen, headed by Ratazzi.

The Cabinet of Turin has made a proposal to the Federal Council for the construction of a railway through Switzerland to connect Italy and Germany.

The Sardinian Government is said to have been induced by the representations of France to recognise the right of the Pope to claim the assistance of the King of Naples to maintain order in the Papal States. It is therefore asserted that if, after the departure of the French troops, the Papal army were increased by Neapolitan soldiers, Sardinia would raise no objection, provided the Papal army should not attempt the conquest of the Legations.

ROME.

A proclamation of the Pope has been published in which his Holiness makes an appeal to the Catholics on behalf of the subscription to the new Roman loan of 50,000,000*fr.*, bearing interest at 5 per cent. The bonds are of three classes—viz., 100*fr.*, 500*fr.*, and 1000*fr.* each. The subscription has been opened in the capitals of Europe. Belgium has already subscribed 15,000,000*fr.*

A thousand Irishmen are said to have left Trieste for Ancona in order to be enrolled in the Pontifical army.

General Oudinot denies a report that he intended taking service with the Pontifical troops.

The French garrison remains at Rome, and, according to advices received at Berlin, will probably even be reinforced.

PRUSSIA.

The Military Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has unanimously granted the supplies applied for by the Government for placing the army on a war footing. The Government asked for the extraordinary credit of 9,000,000*thalers* for the year ending June, 1861.

The Schleswig-Holstein question was again brought forward on the 4th, and led to a declaration by the Foreign Minister that the Prussian Government does not regard the German Federal Diet, as Von Vincke had intimated, as a body that merely existed, but as one that had a right to exist—a declaration evidently intended to reassure the Governments of the minor States as to the views of Prussia.

AUSTRIA.

The new measures of Austria with regard to Hungary seem likely to fail, through want of men willing to take the new offices offered by the Government. We read in a Vienna letter, May 5:—"Of the Hungarian nominees to the Council of the Empire, Count George Apponyi [not the Austrian Ambassador at our Court], Baron Eötvös, and Paul von Somsich, three noblemen of Liberal-Conservative opinions, have refused to take office. Their determination is the more painful to the Government as it was intended to lay the affairs of Hungary before the Reichsrath at an early period."

Demonstrations in honour of the late Count Szechenyi have taken place in every considerable town in Hungary, the assemblies being everywhere strongly marked by national feeling. At Pesth a solemn service for the repose of Szechenyi's soul was celebrated in the Catholic cathedral, the Primate of Hungary officiating. Within and without the cathedral a crowd of some 80,000 people assembled, and cries of *Eljen a haz! Eljen Kossuth! Eljen Szechenyi!* (Hurrah for this country, for Kossuth, for Szechenyi!) were constantly raised.

RUSSIA.

The *Gazette* of St. Petersburg has published the treaty of commerce concluded on the 19th of August, 1858, with Japan. It contains a stipulation that a Japanese Ambassador shall reside at St. Petersburg and a Russian one at Jeddo. The latter is to have full liberty of visiting all parts of the country, and Russian Consuls are to be appointed in all the ports open to commerce. Russians are allowed to reside at Jeddo and Osaka for trading purposes only.

A conspiracy in St. Petersburg is reported by the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*. He says:—

I have read an official despatch from St. Petersburg, not without interest. There seems to be no doubt that a conspiracy had lately been organised against the life of the Emperor, or, at all events, with a view of obliging his Imperial Majesty to abandon his praiseworthy policy of emancipation of the slave populations. I read of the arrest of some 150 or 200 persons at St. Petersburg, amongst the Noble Guard. Certain suspected regiments were sent out of the city, and replaced by troops perfectly innocent of all political feeling. In addition, artillery was planted in various quarters of St. Petersburg, in order to check, if necessary, this planned military revolt. I have seen the names of the accused, but I am not permitted to publish them.

The official *Gazette* of the kingdom of Poland publishes a ukase of the Emperor Alexander which extends to the inhabitants of Poland, on the occasion of the majority of the heir apparent, the pardons, as regards confiscation of property, inflicted on those who took part in the insurrection of 1831. It is stated, too, that the Emperor has decreed that bourgeois and enfranchised peasants shall henceforth, like nobles, not be subject to corporal punishment unless in virtue of a regular judgment.

AMERICA.

Mr. Douglas is likely to be selected by the Democrats to "run" for the Presidency.

Rumours had been current of dissensions in the Cabinet at Washington, but they were pronounced unfounded.

A telegram, dated New Orleans, April 23, states that the Captain-General of Cuba had sent a Commissioner to Washington to confer with the Spanish Minister regarding the steamer captured at Vera Cruz. Another despatch says that Miramon had sent a bitter letter to Mr. Cass on the same subject.

A revolution, headed by General Mosquera, had broken out in New Granada, Mexico.

INDIA.

OPPOSITION TO MR. WILSON'S FINANCIAL SCHEME.

The *Bombay Gazette* says:—"The Governor of Madras opposes the financial measure of Mr. Wilson and the Supreme Government. In a minute, which found its way into a Madras newspaper before it had been submitted to the Legislative Council, Sir Charles Trevelyan, with the unanimous support of his colleagues in the local Government, earnestly deprecates the levying of the 'tremendous taxes' by which the Finance Minister proposes to restore the revenues of the State to a healthy condition. Sir Charles has, he says, just returned from a tour through the Madras provinces, in which he saw only a loyal, contented, and industrious population, who had no suspicion of the impending changes, and who need nothing more than a continuance of the peaceful reforms now in progress to make them the most prosperous and docile of British subjects. But, if new taxes be imposed, all these fair prospects will be swept away, the people will probably offer active resistance to the attempted confiscation of their property, and, at any rate, we shall have on our hands a poverty-stricken and discontented population, to be kept in order by a costly and discontented native army. Besides, in the opinion of the Governor of Madras, taxation is unnecessary. He pledges his credit that the finances of India can be brought into proper order by the simple reduction of expenditure. He contemplates such a reduction of the native army—the soldiers of which, he asserts, have no longer a preference for the service, since they can obtain better wages in the labour market—as will supply the whole of Mr. Wilson's estimated deficiency of £5,500,000 for the year 1860-61, even if that deficiency exists. But Sir Charles Trevelyan believes it does not exist, but professes himself unable to form an opinion, because, although Mr. Wilson must have made estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1860-61, unless his balance of the latter over the former is a haphazard calculation, he has neglected to lay these estimates before the public. Sir Charles Trevelyan omits to explain in what way he would make his proposed military reductions."

THE REBELS.

Khan Bahadur Khan has been hanged. Mummo Khan has been acquitted of the murder of English men and women. He is said to have made important disclosures. The Rana of Nuggur Parkur has been convicted, and sentenced to fourteen and his Minister to ten years' transportation.

THE SICILIAN INSURRECTION.

DESCENT OF GARIBALDI.

The Sicilian insurrection is still in full career. There is no evil omen that the troops of the Neapolitan Bourbon hold any part of the island, except the larger towns, and the coast so far as it is under the fire of the Neapolitan navy. It does not appear that General Salzano is able to do more with his host than stand upon his guard in Palermo, Messina, and one or two other places, dispossess the insurgents of the neighbouring villages, burn the villas, hang, shoot, and imprison captives, and demand reinforcements.

And now a new enemy appears. It is ascertained that Garibaldi and a chosen band have set sail for Sicily. With him went Medici, who won his spurs at Rome in 1849, and other gallant lieutenants of a chief whose fame as a partisan is as brilliant in the *New World* as it is in the *Old*. He sailed from Genoa on the night of May 5. The Piedmontese Government had ordered the seizure of the arms and munitions purchased by the proceeds of the Garibaldi Fund, and lodged for security in the arsenal of Genoa, and had carefully watched the port, but the ship in which Garibaldi sailed had papers for Malta, and had been clear out to sea two days previously. Garibaldi reached this ship in a pleasure-boat, and at once steered for Sicily. The *Patrie* says that, "independent of the vessel of Garibaldi, two other steamers have left Genoa, having on board fourteen hundred men, consisting principally of the former Chasseurs des Alpes, Romagnols, Lombards, and several Genoese. A fourth vessel, it is said, left Leghorn for the same destination as the others, and three vessels have started from different points, all of which would join the division out at sea. All these vessels, in order to mislead the Piedmontese authorities, had taken their papers for Malta."

The *Patrie* further reports, what all rumour tends to confirm, that the expedition is organised on a grand scale, being well provided with arms, ammunition, and provisions. Some reports have it that Garibaldi carried some twenty cannon with him; and he is said to have exchanged for gold 3,000,000 francs in notes at the Bank of Genoa. The General's companions are estimated at 3000 determined men. As to arms, which he seems to have obtained in plenty somewhere, the *Globe* asks what has become of that mysterious American clipper, laden with some thousand stand of arms, which lately dropped anchor near Cork? The rallying-point of the expedition was thought to be the island of Capraia. Of course the Neapolitan war-ships would be on the look-out for it. The Sardinian Government, too, has sent instructions to its squadron in the Sicilian waters to try and prevent Garibaldi from landing; and the French Government journals are loud in their condemnation of the revolutionary General, whom they call a filibuster and pirate. It seems that Garibaldi, to save the Sardinian Government from the charge of complicity, divested himself before starting of his rank in the Sardinian army, and of his Sardinian citizenship; but there can be no doubt that his war-cry in Sicily, should he succeed in effecting a landing, will be that of annexation to the State he now repudiates.

This expedition places the Sardinian Government in great difficulty. Count Cavour seems to have done all that could be demanded of the head of a Government. The arms lodged at Genoa were withheld; Sardinian war-steamer have been sent to cruise off Sicily to prevent the abuse of the Italian flag; Genoa and other ports have been watched. Indeed, the Sardinian Government has long endeavoured to make friends with the Government of Naples, and sought by diplomatic action to effect a change in its policy. England and France have done the same. Unless war be declared one Government has no right to promote insurrections in the territory of another. Without being regularly called in by the insurgents, without a declaration of war, Victor Emmanuel would have no more right to assist the Sicilians than Russia would have a right to assist the Hungarians, or France to aid a Spanish insurrection. The Sardinian Government, as an Italian Power, has fair ground for remonstrating with the Government of Naples, because the conduct of that Power is a perpetual menace to the peace and independence of Italy; but there the right stops short.

and the next step must be open war or absolute neutrality. We have no right to suppose that the Sardinian Government has overshot this mark. Garibaldi and his friends go at their own risk. But, whatever may be his peril, the peril of the Sardinian Government, in consequence of his daring enterprise, is almost as great. If Garibaldi fail, or if he be caught and shot or hung, his failure and his death will be laid at the door of the King and his counsellors. Hot-headed patriots will say that the Government ought to have openly aided the insurrection, and have overturned the Bourbons at the point of the bayonet; but no dangers arising from this source should prevent the Government of Sardinia from holding on the honest course of giving no aid to either party unless after an express declaration of war.

It would appear that Mazzini has come to the conclusion that he has something to do in Sicily. The *Armenia* of Milan publishes a proclamation which he has just addressed to the Sicilians. It concludes with these words:—"Sicilians, the hour has struck! In the name of Italy, to arms!" It is not said that Mazzini has gone in person to Sicily.

FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

It is now admitted that the principal difference between France and Switzerland on the affair of Savoy is this:—Switzerland maintains that the neutralisation of the North of Savoy was established, not only in the interest of Sardinia, but also for the defence of Swiss neutrality, and especially for the protection of Geneva and the passage of the Simplon; while, on the other hand, the French Government insists with much persistence that the neutralisation was accorded in 1814 and 1815, exclusively in the interest of Sardinia. The Swiss Government has supported its views by historical documents; and these views are corroborated by official documents of much interest which M. Adolphe Pictet (son of M. Pictet de Rochemont, of Geneva, who negotiated at Vienna when the Congress was sitting on this question) has just published. The notes and correspondence, now first given to the world, furnish the undeniable proof that the neutralisation was accorded, not only in the interest of Sardinia (which, by-the-way, the Swiss Government has never denied), but also and especially for the military defence of Swiss neutrality.

A telegram from Vienna says:—"In reply to the proposals of France, England consents to adopt as basis of the Conference Article 92 of the final act of Vienna, which refers to the neutralisation of the districts of Chablais and Faucigny. England reserves, however, the right of making, at the said conference, proposals relative to the modus of this neutralisation. This declaration of England is likely to increase the probabilities of the assembling of the proposed conference."

We have the following from Geneva:—"The Federal Council has received a note from the French Government respecting the maltreatment and insults which had been offered to Frenchmen in Switzerland, and requesting that steps should be taken for the prevention of them. Official inquiries have proved these allegations of France to be absolutely false."

The strange news which made its appearance a few days ago in the columns of a Swiss newspaper having connections with the Federal Government, that Switzerland had been offered two million pounds if she will renounce her claim to Chablais and Faucigny, is now explained by the same journal in this way, that the offer has not proceeded from France, and therefore, in fact, is no offer at all, but a simple suggestion made by a third Power, which the Swiss Representative accredited at the Court alluded to had reported to the Federal Government. The latter seems, nevertheless, to have thought this a fitting opportunity for declaring, in the correspondence which ensued, that Switzerland is not in the habit of bartering away her rights.

Prince Napoleon and the late King of Bavaria have both arrived at Geneva. The former is accompanied by M. E. de Girardin.

THE INDIGO RIOTS.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* gives the following account of the causes which have induced the present indigo riots:—

"Almost the whole of Bengal is in the hands of a limited number of landowners, whose estates vary from 5000 square miles (the Dinapore zemindarie is more than that—to fifty). These zemindars are not, however, landlords in the English sense, for their tenants are equally with themselves proprietors. The mass of them cannot be turned out while they pay their rent. Accordingly, the speculator who wants to grow indigo, instead of buying land and hiring labour, as he would in Europe, buys the right to these rents. Sometimes he buys out the zemindar altogether. This has been done in Tirhoot, and, owing to this and some other causes, the European landlords and their peasantry are in that district in accord. In other cases, the planters only hold of the zemindars. This is the case in Krishnagur, where the Europeans own three-fifths of the soil, but still do not hold directly of the Crown. The indirect influence of the zemindars still remains very great. Having no labour and no land in occupancy, the planter has to induce the ryots to cultivate their land with the article he wants. For half a century his plan for effecting this end has been to induce his tenants to take advances. For every rupee so taken the ryot has to furnish from four to eight bundles of indigo. The peasant, from the beginning never liked the indigo, for two reasons—it requires minute attention and excessive exertion in cutting-time, and it is a 'gambling crop'—i.e., the difference of return in different years is excessive. Under the advance system the whole risk is borne by the peasant. If his crop is large he prospers, but if it is bad his advance debt runs into the following year, and he has to cultivate next time without any money at all. Still an advance of capital without interest was tempting, and while rice was low, the indigo was, on the whole, a fair cultivation. For the past six years, however, while the price of rice has been steadily rising, the demand for seeds has been enormously on the increase. The rate for indigo remained unchanged, and the peasant therefore found that he was often using his land to pay off an old debt at a low price per bundle, while he might have gained a high profit on his rice or seeds. As a matter of course he tried to shirk, and equally as a matter of course the planter insisted on his bundles of plant. If he found the ryot obstinate, the planter sowed the land himself, frequently being attacked by the villagers during the operation. This is the root of the 'club or laltial system,' the planter keeping clubmen to protect the cultivation. At last, prices continuing to rise, the peasantry become more menacing in their tone, and recently beset the Lieutenant-Governor with petitions. Mr. Grant replied, stating that they must work if they contracted to work, but they could make contracts or not, as they liked. Mr. Eden, magistrate of Baraset, indignant at what he thought oppression, or, as the planters say, detesting the interlopers, circulated a paragraph of Mr. Grant's letter among his police. Police and people took it to mean that the Government disapproved the cultivation of indigo, and a sudden strike followed. The news spread, and in a few days the cultivation of indigo had stopped in Krishnagur, Moorsheadabad, Baraset, and Jessore. A few factories, owned directly by Europeans, kept on; but the peasantry at once threatened the workmen with death and beat them severely, as earnest of their intentions. To put down mutiny among their own order they moved in large masses, with clubs; and, of course, we all know the danger from an excited mob. In a few days they commenced menacing the Europeans. In one factory the assistants were clubbed; in another the stacks were burnt down; in a third Mr. Lyons was compelled to call the crew of a steamer to his aid and shoot down five of the mob. In all there was the certainty of immediate insolvency. If the seed was not sown by May the crop—a million sterling—would be lost, and advances of a million sterling more irretrievably sacrificed. The planters therefore applied to Government for aid."

The Government was at first unwilling to move in the matter, but on the 24th of March they gave way, and a bill to enforce the fulfilment of the indigo contracts was introduced. "It provides that any man who has received cash on promise to sow indigo, and does not sow indigo, may be fined five times the advance and imprisoned. Any man instigating a breach of contract, or spoiling a growing crop, may be imprisoned for six months. It also provides for a commission of inquiry

to investigate the question, and put planters and ryots alike on oath. This commission will comprise a civilian, a planter, a merchant, and a native, Mr. Yule, the hunting commissioner of Bhagulpore, and one most trusted men in India, being the civilian. At the same time, large bodies of military police and irregular cavalry were ordered into the districts to support the law. The Act expires on the 24th of September, the object being simply to gain time."

IRELAND.

THE ABDUCTION CASES.—Another abduction case came before the Court of Queen's Bench at Dublin on Saturday. Alice Murphy, widow of a Dublin tailor, obtained a writ of habeas corpus calling upon Henry Corr, of Donnybrook, to bring up the bodies of Patrick and Alicia Murphy, her children. From her statement it appeared that she was induced in 1857 to allow her daughter to go to the Josephine Orphan House; that up to September, 1858, she was allowed to see the child, but that since then the child had been removed. Mr. Corr made a return which set forth that the father of the children executed a will in which he appointed Mr. Corr the trustee and guardian of his children, who, it was his (the father's) wish, should be brought up Roman Catholics; and that, accordingly, he (Mr. Corr) took steps to carry out the intentions of the testator, and had both children placed in Roman Catholic orphan asylums. The return further set forth that their mother subsequently applied to Mr. Corr to transfer the children to her custody for the purpose of having them brought up as Protestants, on the ground that the parties who would undertake their maintenance and education would also support her, she not being allowed any assistance from the Roman Catholic authorities. This Mr. Corr refuses to do. It was decided that it was a case in which the children were properly brought up Roman Catholics. Mr. Corr undertook that the mother should have free access to the children, on condition of her not attempting to interfere with their education. Both the orphans were brought into court.—The Court would not interfere in a case where the contending parties were both the maternal aunts of the children, but one of them was a Catholic, and the other a Protestant. The Protestant had possession of the children, and the Catholic sought to get them. It is said to be the intention of the prosecutrix to apply to the Court of Chancery to have the children educated as Roman Catholics.

THE IRISH RECRUITS FOR THE POPE.—We read in the *Mail*:—"It is currently reported, and as currently believed, that within the last fortnight between 400 and 500 young men—a few of them belonging to the respectable trade classes—have left Ireland en route to Rome, with what ulterior object the reader can readily surmise. The great majority of the recruits are said to have been picked up in Cork, Kerry, and North Tipperary, the minority being composed of Dublin men. Through some mysterious agency each recruit has had the good fortune to have received a sum of £18 15s.—not, of course, by way of bounty or smart-money, but merely to cover the necessary expenses of a visit to the Eternal City."

SCOTLAND.

GREAT FAILURE IN ABERDEEN.—The firm of John and Anthony Blaikie, advocates and land-factors of Aberdeen, has failed for no less a sum than £300,000. The *Scotsman* says:—"In this sum is swallowed up the savings of tradesmen, the scanty portions of not a few widows and maiden ladies of families who have seen better days, the rents of many large landed proprietors, and also, it is said, moneys intended to be invested in security and in bond. A young and clever architect of the city, brought chiefly into notice by the firm, is said to be a loser to the extent of £500; while a noble Earl well known in the Free Church religious community, and who takes his title from a Royal burgh not twenty miles distant from Aberdeen, is reported to be in for not less than £100,000. In truth, it may be said there was unbounded confidence placed in John Blaikie. He is a member of a family who for half a century at least have most worthily held the very highest name and credit in the north of Scotland."

THE PROVINCES.

THE STAMFORD MURDER.—Our readers will remember the revolting murder which recently took place at Stamford—that of the unfortunate lady who was first strangled and then burnt, and whose house was plundered of a large quantity of plate. A portion of the stolen property was discovered a day or two ago in a somewhat extraordinary manner. Two men who were fishing in a piece of water in the immediate neighbourhood of Stamford saw something shining at the bottom. On the bed of the stream being raked no less than thirty pieces of plate, all of which belonged to the murdered woman, were discovered. It is believed that this discovery strengthens the suspicion against the man who was in custody, but who has since committed suicide, as he was seen going in the direction of the stream in question on the morning of his apprehension.

A "LARK."—An old man, a farmer, named Hugh Ainscough, was returning to Wroughton late on the night of Tuesday week, being in a state of intoxication at the time, when he was attacked by three or four young men who had been drinking at the same public-house, and who commenced to throw clods at him and a woman by whom he was accompanied. The woman, who, in the darkness, was unable to see whence the clods came, endeavoured to induce Ainscough to continue on his way home; but the man being stupid and refusing to do so, she left him. The next morning he was found dead in the place where he was last seen, with about half a ton of clods heaped upon him. Edward Cubin, a farmer, Charles Hart, a collier, and Richard Benson, a pavior, were soon afterwards apprehended; and, from the evidence of a man who had left them when they commenced to throw clods at Ainscough, there was no doubt but that they were the guilty parties. At the inquest it was proved that the cause of death was suffocation, and the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the prisoners.

A REVOLTING SCENE.—A large body of artillery entered Buckingham one evening last week from Northampton, en route for Aldershot, and next morning the men proceeded on their route. On leaving, it was noticed that there was one offending member under punishment, tied to a gun-carriage, and that, as he refused to walk, he was literally dragged out of the town. When they had proceeded as far as the Tingewick Road-bridge, it was found that the man was under a course of strangulation, was black in the face, and blood was running from his mouth and nose. Here they were obliged to release him and apply restoratives. A mob had gathered, and for some time things were a serious aspect. On one side swords were drawn, and on the other the multitude sympathised with the man, although he is said to be of a brutally obstinate temper, and had been under punishment from Northampton to Buckingham for misconduct, and strove hard to commit *felony de se*.

A BOROUGH SOLICITING ITS OWN DISFRANCHISEMENT.—A petition praying for the total disfranchisement of the borough of Harwich is now in course of signature in that town. The petitioners observe that, while attaching great value to the elective franchise, they are convinced that in Harwich it conduces neither to the morality, happiness, nor prosperity of the place. The petitioners state that they have good reason to believe that the corruption for which Harwich has long been notorious not only still exists, but increases; and that elections are not decided by the honest votes of true men of either party, but by the votes of such men as are open to undue influence.

THE RHINE FRONTIER.—A new pamphlet, from the pen of M. Jourdan of the *Siecle*, was on the point of appearing at Paris. It was entitled "Les Frontières du Rhin," and the object was to demonstrate the absolute necessity for France to take *positively* the Rhine as a frontier. It was intimated to the publisher, or the author, or both, that the pamphlet could not appear just now; and that if it appeared it would infallibly be suppressed. An indemnity was offered to cover the expenses of paper and printing.

TRIAL OF RIFLES AT HYTHE.—The result of the invitation by the National Rifle Association to all the gunmakers of England to attend at Hythe on the 1st of May and test the capabilities of their manufactures, was a competition between Mr. Whitworth and a deputation of the gunmakers of Birmingham. The trial was greatly in favour of Mr. Whitworth. The firing commenced at eight hundred yards, shots being fired alternately from Mr. Whitworth's gun and from a Birmingham gun. The former (Whitworth's) made a target of seventeen inches radius; the latter for the first five shots made a target of twenty-nine inches, and then, owing to some accidental derangement of the gun, the remaining fifteen shots, with one exception, ricocheted, and therefore could not properly be taken into account. The gunmakers then tried another rifle against one of Mr. Whitworth's, with a more satisfactory result for the "trade," and they still express confidence in being able to produce a weapon equal in all respects to that of the eminent engineer. At present, however, the palm rests with him.

BELGIAN CANALS.—The Belgian journals express astonishment at the canards which have been set afloat concerning projects said to be entertained by their Government. Contrary to report, the Belgian Government has never dreamt of purchasing Cyprus or Candia from Turkey, which, besides, has been rendered impossible by the Treaty of Paris of 1856; it, likewise, has never harboured the idea of ceding Philippeville to France, in exchange for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which France has been described as having offered in exchange—a offer that would have implied the necessity of conquering it first from Holland and the German Confederation.

DEATH OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

THE Archbishop of York died on the evening of the 4th inst. at his Grace's residence in Belgrave-square. The Right Hon. and Most Rev. T. Musgrave, D.D., was son of a draper in Cambridge, where he was born in 1788. He entered as a student Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1806, and was fourteenth wrangler in 1810. His Grace was elected a fellow of his college, which he held up to 1837. When at Cambridge he obtained the second member's prize for Middle Bachelor in 1811; proceeded M.A. in 1813; became Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic in 1821; and was Senior Proctor in 1831.

In 1837 Dr. Musgrave was appointed by the late Viscount Melbourne Bishop of Hereford; and on the death of the venerable Dr. Harcourt, in 1847, was translated to the archiepiscopal see of York. The late Archbishop was a governor of the Charterhouse and of King's College; a visitor of Queen's College, Oxford; a commissioner for building churches, and Elector of St. Augustine's College, Canterbury. In the patronage of the Archbishop were ninety-six livings, which he dispensed most impartially and with credit to his exalted position. The diocese comprises the whole of Yorkshire, with the exception of a portion belonging to the see of Ripon, and is of the annual value of £10,000. The province includes the sees of Durham, Carlisle, Chester, Manchester, Ripon, and Sodor and Man.

The late Archbishop married, December the 12th, 1839, the Hon. Catherine, youngest daughter of the late Lord Waterpark, and sister of the present Peer.

THE NEW ARTILLERY.—A further course of experiments is ordered to be entered into in the gun-factories at Woolwich with cast-iron guns hooped on Sir William Armstrong's principle. They are to be fired with increased charges until they are destroyed, so as to ascertain the extent of their endurance, and also to decide the practicability of the principle, at present thought to be extremely doubtful from the result of the late trial and failure of one of the guns under proof. Cast-iron guns, strengthened by means of wrought-iron hoops suitable to the new principle of rifling, cost nearly as much as the genuine Armstrong, and will consume about an equal amount of time to manufacture, and must soon be worn out, while the latter may be considered as everlasting. The gun-factories are now at work, night and day, forging the Armstrong guns of all sizes, from 6 to 100 pounds. It is expected that 1200 guns, chiefly of the larger description, will be made this year. During the nine months since the factory has been in operation forty-eight complete batteries of field artillery have been turned out and equipped for service, as well as two hundred 40-pounders for naval use. A large number of 100-pounders are in progress of manufacture, and will be ready by the 1st of August next.

EXECUTION OF A POLITICAL OFFENDER IN SPAIN BY THE GAROTTE.

THE late insurrection in Spain has made busy work for the executioner; and had it not been for the amnesty not only would the executions have been military, such as the shooting of General Ortega, but, in all probability, many of the more humble partisans in the movement would have ended their days by the garotte. In England there is a large party who would do away with capital punishment as being a disgusting exhibition and calculated to have any other effect upon those who witness it but the one intended. But, after all, our mode of disposing of criminals is not by any means so repulsive as that employed by Spain. The culprit is brought on to a raised platform, in the centre of which rises a stake. A chair is placed against this, and the "patient" (if we may use the word) is seated upon it. An iron collar is then passed round his neck to the back of the stake, and by means of a screw tightened till the vertebral column is dislocated; and all this hideous performance without even so much as a cap drawn over the sufferer's face to conceal the agony he endures.

Those quaintly-dressed officials surrounding the scaffold are the *alguazils*, who still preserve their quaint costumes of the last century.

VICTOR EMMANUEL AT FLORENCE.

THE progress of Victor Emmanuel through his Tuscan province must have left an impression on the *re galantuomo's* heart that time can never obliterate. We are accustomed to the enthusiasm that meets our own Sovereign in a Royal progress through her kingdom, but we doubt if a more fervent expression of loyalty could be displayed than that which greeted Victor Emmanuel's visit to his new Florentine subjects.

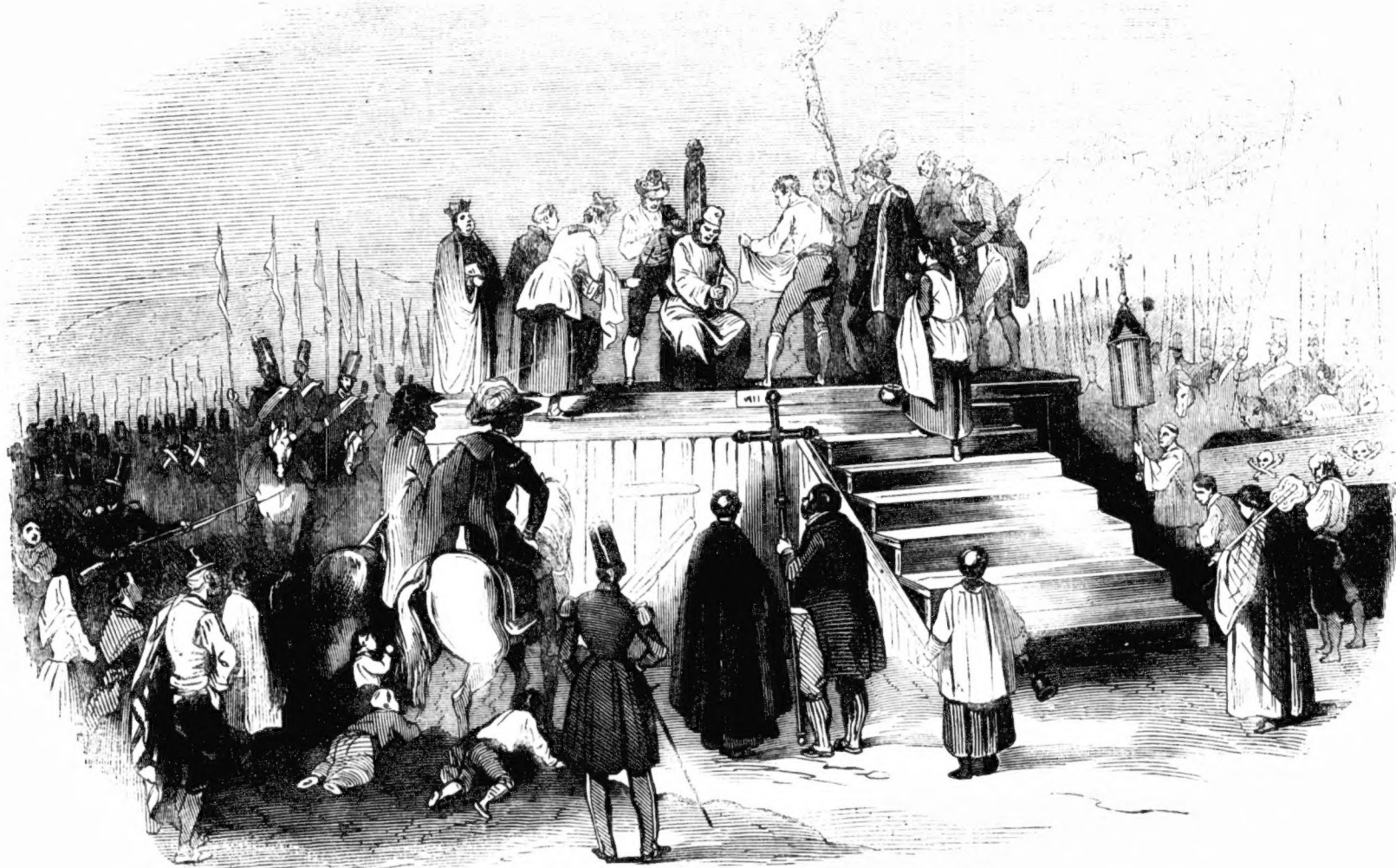
But this visit to Florence is not in reality his first. He was there when quite an infant, at the time that the Prince of Carignano, a fugitive from Turin after the revolutionary attempt of 1821, found shelter at the Court of his Grand Ducal cousins of Tuscany. The Carignano family were then lodged at the Poggio Imperiale. The infant Prince Victor Emmanuel was in his cradle, the curtains of which were set on fire by a candle which came in contact with them. The child was rescued from the flames, not, however, without severe burning on his right hand and left side, in which latter spot the King bears the marks of the fire to the present day. This domestic episode we learn from the letters of the Prince Carignano, the King's father, who then simply signed himself "Alberto di Savoia," but who took his full name of "Charles Albert" on his accession to the throne in 1831. These letters, which evince a great deal of pious feeling on Charles Albert's part, were lately given to the public by the Cavaliere Zanotti. The incident occurred in the middle of September, 1822.

It was a glorious sight, that entry of Victor Emmanuel into Florence. As the cortege left the railway station deafening shouts arose on all sides, elicited by the graceful curvets of the Royal steed, and the firm, erect, easy seat, bold, manly glance, stout, massive frame of its heroic rider, engulfed at every step by the vast, heaving, roaring mass, which, as far as the eye could reach, filled every inch of space of the railway yards, the vast entrance to the Cascines, and every avenue of the many roads which here converge upon the Porta al Prata.

There were three Florences on the pavé, as many again at the thousand windows, and on the stands and stages everywhere reared up on either side of the way; as many again in the squares built up into as many amphitheatres. Houses tapestried all over, banners everywhere hanging on the balconies, everywhere waving in the crowd; and arches and great gateways, with quaint devices and mottoes, inscriptions, and coats of arms, and trophies; and garlands and rows of garlands everywhere stretching along and across the streets, masses of flowers, showers of flowers, too many flowers even for the city of Flora to have produced, one would think, without the aid of her neighbours; music also everywhere, military bands, civic bands, rustic bands; everywhere glittering things, rustling things, fragrant things, sights and sounds; an attack upon all the senses, gratifying at first, delighting and exhilarating, but presently overpowering and bewildering, till the strongest sensation was that of confusion and headache.

At last the King has worked his way through the dense masses of his admiring subjects to the Piazza Pitti, and he rides into the proud Palace so long the home of the Medici.

It is now 330 years since a Burgundian Prince, hardly an Italian, though residing south of the Alps, appeared in the crowd of Italian crowned heads assembled to do homage to the fortunate Austrian, Charles V., the wearer of the Imperial diadem at Bologna. Together with that Burgundian or Savoyard Duke, Charles III., were Medici, Duke of Florence, Este of Ferrara, Gonzaga of Mantua, Sforza of Milan, and many others. Among those feudal Lords the greatest ambition aimed no higher than the Grand Ducal coronet, which, artfully held out by the crafty Monarch, now to one, now to the other, was for some years tantalisingly withheld from all of them. All those Italian tyrants would almost have resented as presumption any hope on the part of the poor and unlucky Savoyard for the glittering bauble which they all coveted. The Medici had it in due time, and Tuscany was made the highest of North Italian vassals. Where are now the Medici, where the Este and Gonzaga, the Sforza, Farnese, and the whole set? Behold! the poor Savoyard has outlived and swallowed them all; and all their deeds of usurpation have gone only to build up his Italian throne—a throne grounded on legitimate rights from the beginning, and which, in olden no less than in recent times, owed its increase to popular spontaneous surrender—to voluntary



EXECUTION OF A POLITICAL OFFENDER IN SPAIN BY THE GAROTTE.



VICTOR EMMANUEL SALUTING THE FLORENTINES FROM THE GALLERY OF THE PITTİ PALACE.

annexation. Read the history of Piedmont, and you will see how Italy, by his side the Prince of Carignano, a little behind Baron Ricasoli and the Saverio, by the same process which now brings Florence, Bologna, Parma, and Modena under her sway, with great pomp at the Pitti Palace, and soon come all the great dignitaries of State, crowding the magnificent staircase, to pay him homage. But underneath is the real Sovereign, to whom the King must in his turn make his bow. Underneath the vast square and the sweeping rise to the palace gates are thronged with a dense multitude, which the control of the National Guards cannot without great efforts keep under control. They must have one more peep at the King. The windows of the opposite houses are tenanted by deep-browed, bright-eyed Florentines. A galaxy of beauty of the same description, but with still greater pretensions to rank, occupies the vast galleries projecting from the palace on either side and encompassing the square. Those gaily-attired beauties have been perched up there, closely packed, ever since their tickets obtained them admittance at ten o'clock in the morning, and it is now three o'clock in the afternoon. They, too, must enjoy the privilege claimed by the cat—they must look at the King. Hark! the clapping of their tiny white-gloved hands echoes the roar of the clamouring multitude beneath—"Viva il Re! fuori il Re!"

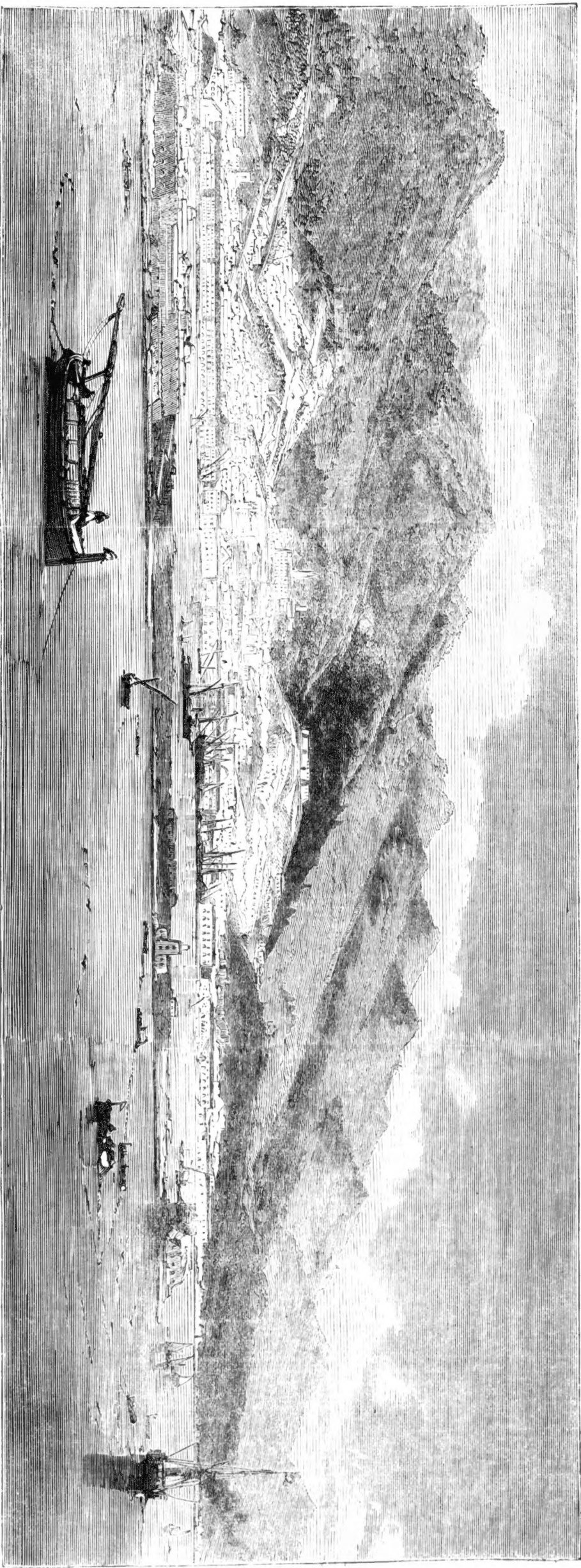
The balcony is thrown open; out issues the serene face of Victor Emmanuel, by his side the Prince of Carignano, a little behind Baron Ricasoli and the Saverio, by the same process which now brings Florence, Bologna, Parma, and Modena under her sway, with great pomp at the Pitti Palace, and soon come all the great dignitaries of State, crowding the magnificent staircase, to pay him homage. But underneath is the real Sovereign, to whom the King must in his turn make his bow. Underneath the vast square and the sweeping rise to the palace gates are thronged with a dense multitude, which the control of the National Guards cannot without great efforts keep under control. They must have one more peep at the King. The windows of the opposite houses are tenanted by deep-browed, bright-eyed Florentines. A galaxy of beauty of the same description, but with still greater pretensions to rank, occupies the vast galleries projecting from the palace on either side and encompassing the square. Those gaily-attired beauties have been perched up there, closely packed, ever since their tickets obtained them admittance at ten o'clock in the morning, and it is now three o'clock in the afternoon. They, too, must enjoy the privilege claimed by the cat—they must look at the King. Hark! the clapping of their tiny white-gloved hands echoes the roar of the clamouring multitude beneath—"Viva il Re! fuori il Re!"

MESSINA.

SICILY has now usurped the whole attention of Europe, it being evident that the Italian struggle for freedom commenced in 1859 is to be continued in that appanage of the Neapolitan Crown. The example of the Northern Italians is now being followed by their Southern brethren, with what success we know not yet; but it is probable that, before the world is six months older, the tyrannical Government of young Bonaparte will be one of the "things of the past." Garibaldi, "whose name is legion," has left for the scene of contest, accompanied by some of his most trusted companions in arms; and we doubt not but that his advent amongst the insurgents will turn the tide of fortune in their favour.

Messina was one of the chief points in Sicily where the revolution first declared itself. It is situated on the north-east coast, opposite to Calabria, from which it is separated by the Channel of the Faro, here about four miles wide. The town of Messina is built partly on the slope of a steep hill, and partly along the seashore at the foot of it. The port is formed by a strip of sandy beach projecting into the sea at the south side of the city, and sweeping round in the form of a semicircle. On this narrow tract of land are the citadel, the lazaretto, the lighthouse, and the castle of Salvatore at the entrance of the harbour, which faces the north. The larger part of the town rises in the form of a crescent on the west side of the harbour, which is more than two miles in circumference, and is one of the best in the Mediterranean. The view over the channel, the opposite coast of Calabria, with its towns and villages, and the lofty Apennines behind them, and, on the other side, the low promontory of Faro, with its tower, advancing into the sea as if to meet the Italian coast, form a splendid landscape, which is one of the finest even in that classic sea, whose shores are so remarkable for the variety of beautiful scenery it presents.

It is this beautiful town that in conjunction with its sister, Palermo, has been the scene of the most fearful atrocities committed by the Royal troops on many unoffending people. We cannot wonder at a people long the victims of a tyrannical Government, treated more like brutes than human beings, rising and attempting to free themselves. The Messinese, like the rest of the Sicilians, had borne their wretched treatment till they could bear it no longer, and on the 8th ult. the inhabitants of the city rose, but were overpowered and driven into the country. A great number of soldiers, gun, ruses, and citizens were killed and wounded, but the numbers have not been correctly ascertained. A report having got abroad that the rising in Palermo, which had taken place some days previously, had been quelled, the idea of a successful revolution was for the time abandoned, and the citizens gradually returned to their houses. On the nights of the 10th and 11th ult. attacks were made on the city by the troops, and many persons were killed in their houses. There was both musketry and cannon fire, and the soldiers appear to have fired right and left, without any apparent object. Indeed, the troops were to be dreaded even by peaceable citizens. The British and French Consuls, in the first place, made remonstrances against the bombardment, but the Commandant informed them that they were at liberty to take refuge in the arsenal, that he had no discretion to spare the town if any necessity arose, and, in fact, a proclamation was published to that effect. On the cannonade taking place the Consuls protested in very strong terms. To show with what caprice the soldiers acted, it may be stated that a Swiss



VIEW OF MESSINA.

citizen was wounded as he was coming out of a monastery, where he had been paying a visit, and on been taken to the guardhouse was shut up for three days. An officer was said to have been shot by one of his own men; in fact, the reign of terror had been established by the army itself. The last intelligence from Messina says there was scarcely a person to be met with in the streets. There were, however, numbers of soldiers parading the town in all directions. Bills were posted on the houses and shops to the effect, "This is French property," "This is English property," &c., and many persons had sought refuge with the various Consuls, as being the safest place of abode. There can be no doubt that numerous unarmed and quiet people have been shot by the troops, and the conduct of the authorities has been rather to provoke a revolution than to quell one.

The insurrection at Palermo broke out on the 4th ult. It was announced to the people by a loud report of musketry. The police, well aware that in the church and in the stores of Garcia (a convent at the east end of the capital) men, ammunition, and arms had been assembled, made an onset against the place, which they had previously encompassed all round. Cannon were fired in that part of the marine plan which looks in a straight line towards the main door of the church. The doors were thrown down on the first discharge, and a storming party of troops and policemen advanced. They were received by volleys of musketry; but the defenders inside were but forty, a few of them fell dead, several others were wounded; some made

their escape over the roof; others sought a refuge in the sepulchral vaults; thirteen were taken, and these, laden with chains, were led to prison, followed by thirty of the monks, who were dragged along with the prisoners; arms, ammunition, and a wooden cannon with iron hoops were found in the church and storerooms. The soldiers then carried ladders and fire throughout the building; nothing was spared. A silver crucifix was broken to pieces by these Christian soldiers, who shared the fragments among them. They took the golden "pots" from the tabernacle, strewing its contents—the consecrated waters or hosts—on the ground. Some fighting was still going on at Purrazzi, and musket-shots were heard all along that line as far as the St. Antonio Gate. The fire ceased in a few hours, and the cry "Viva il Re!" announced the complete victory of the troops. The soldiers had driven before them a few of the insurgents at Purrazzi, and had then fired at random all along that line as far as the above-mentioned gate, either through fear or with a view to strike terror among the unoffending population. The Lady Abbess of the Basilica del Monte, out of the Maqueda gate, and a chaplain in his gown and surplice, were dragged in chains to prison, because, unaware of any guilt in the matter, they had suffered the bells of the church to summon the faithful to the usual service.

On the 5th ult. the soldiers again attacked Purrazzi, where not a living soul was left; they battered with cannon the villas of Furio and Montagna, which had been previously sacked; those tenements burned for three days. They slew on this occasion a woman who was flying before them with an infant in arms—they slew mother and child. They killed seven women in their houses, firing at them long after they had secured their easy victory. The next day fifty of the insurgents hoisted three tricolor flags on a mound two miles west of Palermo, at a place called Balda. A battalion of Chasseurs attacked them; the fire lasted about four hours, without much harm on either side; for the troops, notwithstanding their numerical superiority, kept at cannon-shot distance from the insurgents. These latter removed their banners and retired, in good order, to the neighbouring height of Monte Cocco. The soldiers wreaked their wrath upon the luckless monastery and hospital of Balda, which they charged with having sheltered the insurgents in the night and supplied them with drink. Two of the monks were killed; and the patients in the hospital were thrown on the ground, with the beds overturned upon them. The victorious troops encamped at Bocca di Falco. The report that had reached the Messinese on the 8th, to the effect that the outbreak at Palermo had been overcome, was a false one; for the fighting continued up to the 12th, when the insurgents were defeated at Morreale, and twenty-five of them taken prisoners.

The massacres, fires, and depredations of which the Royal troops have been guilty in Sicily are something unheard of. Whole towns of 5000 to 6000 souls are destroyed and the population cut to pieces. The finest villas and the magnificent palaces of the aristocracy are all in ashes. Military executions

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 129.

THE MAYBIRDS.

THE Maybirds are come. They always come to town with the swallows. When, in your walk across the parks, you see a solitary swallow skimming the Serpentine you may be sure that you will meet a string of gentlemen in black, with white neckcloths, in the Strand. The instinct which impels the swallows to our shores at the end of April and the beginning of May are inscrutable; but the attraction of the Maybirds to the metropolis is well known to be Exeter Hall and the doings there. Whence the swallows come we know not, but the London Maybirds we know are the clergymen of all sects of the provinces. The May meetings are great events to the provincial parson; for, in addition to the duty of attending the gatherings at Exeter Hall, he contrives to visit his friends and see the London sights. The House of Commons is an especially favourite haunt for these gentlemen. It is strange that it should be so. One would have thought that, after sitting three or four, and sometimes five, hours listening to speeches in Exeter Hall, they would have had enough of talking; but it is not so. Indeed, we have long since learned that the thirst for talk in not a few people is unquenchable. However, here are our Maybirds again, and, if our readers will in imagination lounge awhile with us in the lobby, we will take note of these visitors, for they are worth our study. They are all strangers to us, but, by carefully marking their countenances, dress, and companions, we shall be able to learn something about them we may be sure. That short, thickest man, for instance, with the ill-made coat, evidently built by a country tailor, a somewhat dingy neckcloth, and altogether "dusty and deliquescent," with small, piercing eyes, bushy eyebrows, and somewhat hard features. He, we take it, is a dissenting minister of the straighter sort from the heart of the provinces; and we are right, for, see! he has seized hold of Mr. Hadfield, the member for Sheffield. A rigid theologian we hold him to be, and, if we read him aright, very intolerant to all who diverge from the orthodox line by the breadth of a hair. The tall and spruce-looking gentleman not far from him, whom the policeman is driving into line—him, we mean, with the spotted tie, dress coat, and patent boots, and with a somewhat simpering air—is, we decide, an Evangelical clergyman well to do in the world. It is remarkable that your Evangelical clergyman, when he can afford it, though he is eloquent on the subject of vanities, is always spruce dressed. He is on the look-out for Mr. Kinnaird, or Mr. Hanbury, or, in default of either of them, will send for Mr. Spooner; for all men of the class know Mr. Spooner, or, if they do not know him personally, they do not hesitate to apply to him to get them into the House; for his fame as the great *defensor fidei* in the House of Commons is in all the churches. At present the gentleman seems not to like to be thrust back by the policeman. At home he is a popular preacher—"the cynosure of all neighbouring eyes"—and can go where he pleases; and to be told to "stand back," and to be thus unceremoniously thrust amongst the vulgar multitude, offends his (shall we say it?) pride. The tall man on the other side we cannot mistake in deciding to be an Anglo-Catholic. His closely-cropped hair; pale face; the thin, white, starched band round his neck; the M.B. waistcoat and straight-cut surcoat, altogether tell us clearly that he is of the High School. The Dissenter has come to town to be present at the London Missionary Society, the Baptist ditto, and the Religious Tract Society meetings. The Evangelical Churchman is for the Church Missionary or the Bible Society; but this last would not be seen at any of these gatherings for the world, but confines himself to the more orthodox institutions, such as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Prayer-book and Homily Society. The knot of gentlemen behind these are the ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. How do we know that? Why, from their Doric speech and from the fact that they are in close confab with Mr. Dunlop, the member for Greenock, who has long been the regularly-appointed "legal adviser of the Free Church." Mr. Dunlop himself looks not unlike a clergyman. Indeed, if we wanted a model for a Scotch Covenanter of the mild sort, we know not that we could choose a better than Mr. Dunlop. His thin, spare body, mild, thoughtful face, and long white hair hanging over his coat collar, would make a capital figure in a Scotch historical picture. But who have we here, so round in figure and rubicund in face, with the shovel hat and rose in the front? You had better be gentle with him, Mr. Policeman, for he is obviously a Church dignitary. Why, it is Archdeacon Hale! Whew! What brings this bird down here? Has he merely brought the friend on his arm to see the House, or is there anything toward in which the Archdeacon is specially interested? Let us look at the paper. Ah! to be sure. "Church Rate Bill, third reading." This, then, is the carcase which has drawn our ecclesiastical eagle.

THE ARCHDEACON AND JOHN BRIGHT.

Yes, it was so; for in peering into the Peers' gallery late in the evening we descried the portly Archdeacon. He sat in the front rank, and, by his leaning forward and holding his hand to his ear to catch the utterances of the speakers, we could see that he was intensely interested in the proceedings. And he heard strange things that night—stranger things, probably, than he ever listened to before; for John Bright spoke, and uttered sentiments about Church and State and ecclesiastical exactions that to his reverence's proud spirit must have been wormwood and gall. It was a curious sight, this confronting of two such men, and suggested very pregnant reflections. It was the old and the new face to face—old ecclesiasticism, once so powerful but now almost effete—so powerless, indeed, that it cannot clear a church of a mob—face to face with young democracy. There was a time when if a Church dignitary had heard such words he would have seized his thunderbolts, hurried them at the head of the recusant offender, and consigned him to prison, or pillory, or something worse; but now he is obliged to sit and listen in silence, a powerless dignitary, with no other thunderbolt than a feeble pen. There was, however, a spice of consolation to our modern Laud that night; and no doubt that dwindled majority of nine, and that hurricane of applause which followed the division, were most acceptable balm to his troubled spirit, and probably echoed in his ears as he went home, lulled him to sleep when he retired to bed, and lapped his soul in Elysian dreams—dreams of the past returned again, when Church dignitaries were armed with real thunderbolts, and had prisons and pillories for recalcitrant John Brights. But was there no ill-omened raven in those dreams, croaking "Never more"? Perhaps there was, for in the most serious illusions of dreams there is generally something to produce a suspicion that all is not real. But this we must leave, for how can we poor mortals hope to penetrate into a high Church dignitary's dreams? This, however, we may say, that if some prophetic raven does haunt the Archdeacon, and, like Edgar Poe's, croak "Never more," he is a true prophet; for, though the majority against church rates has dwindled from 70 to 30 and from 30 to 9, they are doomed, nevertheless.

THE REFORM BILL MOVED ON.

Thanks to the beneficent powers who watch over the House of Commons (if there are any—of which we have stood in doubt of late), we have got rid of the Reform Bill for a few weeks. And it was time; for the atmosphere had become polluted and unhealthy—so thick with the dust of broken pledges, and, in plain terms, so impure with floating falsehoods, that an honest soul could scarcely breathe in it. Every man through the thick, refracting atmosphere seemed unreal and distorted. The Radicals were not Radicals. The Whigs turned their backs upon themselves; and the Conservatives, instead of being the manly, honest, outspoken men which they used to be, had come to seem like plotters, tricksters, manoeuvrers. The bill was dismissed on Thursday night. Up to the time when the Speaker put the question there was a doubt whether the Conservatives would not insist upon a further adjournment; and many of the more reckless of the party both wished and threatened still further to pursue the policy of obstruction; but happily the counsel of the more sober of the party prevailed. And when the question was put there was only one audible "No," and, as that was not repeated, Mr. Speaker declared "the ayes have it" without challenge, and of course without division. There was nothing specially remarkable in the debate, excepting Gladstone's speech. It was doubtful up to the time of the meeting of the House whether the Chancellor

would be present, for he had again been hors de combat and in bed for three days; but at five o'clock he marched in with his box under his arm, and about eleven rose and delivered a speech which, we think, must have entirely relieved the minds of Mr. James and others of the fear that the Reform Bill will be democratic. It was refreshing to hear these statistics, which have been bandied about so much of late, and have so terribly shaken the nerves of honourable members on both sides, analysed by a master.

MR. COLLINS.

Every man may be famous or—notorious. If fame cannot be achieved, notoriety is open to all. If you cannot get your name enrolled in Fame's annals, you may, through other channels, get it before the public, with very little talent and very little trouble. Mr. Collins, the youthful and eccentric member for Knaresborough, will never be famous; but notoriety he seems determined to achieve. It was this frolicsome gentleman who got up, or managed, the famous attempt at a count-out last week; and on the return of Mr. Gladstone to his seat he again attempted notoriety. It is not usual for any man to rise after the Minister of the Crown has summed up and replied; but Mr. Collins is an eccentric, spurs etiquette, and acknowledges no rule; and though Gladstone had summed up, and the full House was impatiently waiting for a division, he arose. He evidently intended to make a long speech, for he had voluminous notes in his hand and a glass of water at command. But he soon found it was no go. His pluck was good and his voice in capital order; but neither his pluck nor his stentorian voice could stand against the storm which raged around him. From the bar, the body of the House, and even down from the members' galleries, the hurricane poured down upon him with pitiless fury. Mr. Speaker would have helped him, but himself was helpless. Once or twice he seemed to be calling "Order! order!" but his voice was drowned and his authority set at naught. He looked right and left, as if he wished to single out some of the principal offenders that he might call them personally to account, and once he half rose from his seat; but all was of no avail. Every attempt to suppress the hurricane only provoked laughter and made the confusion worse confounded. Meanwhile Mr. Collins shouted and gesticulated, and, for a time, gallantly maintained his ground; but he was obliged, at last, to give in, for, if his courage failed not, his lungs did, and he was forced to sit down and content himself with the reflection that if he had not secured the palm for eloquence he had achieved notoriety and made some fun. And perhaps, after all, this was what he wanted—"to have a lark." Well, boys will be boys, and we must put up with their frolics, though boyish frolics at one o'clock in the morning in the House of Commons are both unpleasant and inconvenient to sober people.

THE TWO SHERIDANS.

There was once a Sheridan in the House, as we all know, for who can ever forget the accomplished, witty, and eloquent Richard Brinsley? Well, we have now two Sheridans, and both are named "Brinsley"; one is Richard Brinsley Sheridan, member for Dorchester; the other Henry Brinsley, the member for Dudley. Richard Brinsley is a grandson of the famous man whose name he bears; but, otherwise, is not notable, at least not in the House. Of the kinship of Henry Brinsley the great Richard Dod is silent, though rumour will have it that there is a relationship of some collateral kind. Richard comes into Parliament by favour of some potent personage, we apprehend, as there are seldom or never contests at Dorchester; but Henry has gallantly fought his own way into the House. Henry, Dudley sends us. Dudley is the property mainly of Lord Ward—we beg his pardon, Earl Dudley, for he has lately been raised to that eminence—and his power and influence there were considered at one time to be almost omnipotent. But in 1857 Mr. Henry Sheridan proved that this was not so, for he bearded the lion in his den, the Dudley in his hall, and wrenched the power out of the potentate's hands. (And Mr. Sheridan is evidently the man to do this, for if ever there was a plucky man in the world it is Mr. Sheridan; and he has talents, too, of no common order—talents of the business sort, and talents of the talking sort. He is not an orator, and never will be, but he is unquestionably eloquent, and has unbounded self-reliance and courage. We have thought it right to notice Mr. Sheridan because he has lately placed himself in a prominent position, and will do so again. Last year he carried a gas bill successfully through the House, and on Friday actually tried to wrest the sceptre from the hands of the Chancellor by an attempt to bring in a bill to remove the duty on fire policies. In this case he was not successful—nor was it likely that he would be; but, if he did not secure success, he deserved it; and, no doubt, at some future and not distant day he will see his proposal carried. There was an attempt made to count him out, or rather, perhaps, we ought to say contemplated; but the plan failed. Ominous faces were seen peering through the glass doors, and insidious emissaries were observed sliding about the House—but "forewarned, forearmed," Mr. Sheridan had foreseen this attempt, and had secured a sufficient attendance to prevent its success.

A PUGILISTIC CONTEST.

On Monday night, at an early hour, we were surprised to see an unusually large attendance in the House, and, further, a very uncommon array of Peers and other notables in the galleries. My Lord Derby was there, and the Duke of Argyll, and the Lord Chancellor, with sundry other Peers of less note. We noticed, also, Mr. Delane, of the *Times*; Captain Walter, brother of the Berkshire member; and the tall and imposing figure of Mr. Higgins, who writes in the *Times* under the nom de plume of "Jacob Omnium." In short, all the seats set apart for notabilities were full. What could it mean? The first order of the day was "The Licensing of Refreshment Houses Bill;" but it could not be that that had drawn in this unusual manner; for what care these Peers and Mr. Delane, and "Jacob Omnium," about such a bill as that? They are neither brewers, gin-spinners, nor "wittlers." For a time we were perplexed. Our perplexity, however, was at an end when we saw the small figure of Mr. Walter on his legs, and heard his opening words. There was to be a fight between Walter and Horsman, and the notabilities had come to see the set-to. Nothing draws in the House of Commons like a fight. A good set-to, whether party or personal, always fills the house. An Army question draws the soldiers; a Navy matter, the sailors; a legal bill, the lawyers; but a row draws all classes. And so you see, gentle readers, these great lords and august legislators, whom you from a distance look up to with something like awe, are but men after all—just men of like passions with ourselves. The ring was opened, the combatants stepped in, and the fight began. It was, however, obvious from the first that the men were not well matched. Mr. Walter is a quiet country gentleman; the proprietor—we beg his pardon, a proprietor—of the *Times*; but he has no duties, as we understand, in Printing House-square, except the agreeable duty of taking his rent for the property and his share of the profits. His position is that of a country gentleman, residing mainly on his property at Bearwood, and doing all the duties of his station in an exemplary manner. In the House he seldom speaks, and still less frequently does he take part in political contests; and when he does speak there is, sooth to say, not much in his speeches. It was obvious, then, that such a man was no match for Horsman; for he is a practised and able speaker, and specially artistic in that species of oratory which may be called the pugilistic. In short, in the language of the ring, he has science and power, and knows where to hit and how to deliver a blow as well as any man in the House. It was no wonder, therefore, that in this set-to Mr. Horsman got all the applause. The triumph, however, was not lasting; indeed, long before the House broke up it had become dimmed and faded, and the general opinion was that the whole thing was humbug, and never ought to have been brought before the House. Both Mr. Walter and Mr. Horsman should learn to consume their own smoke, and not blow it into the faces of the public.

THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE DEFEATED.

On Monday night the unholy alliance between virtue and vice, gin and piety, teetotalism and drunkenness, met with a signal defeat. At an early hour, marshaled by their indefatigable secretary, a host of "wittlers" took their seats in the gallery, and there they sat, without food or drink, until half-past twelve o'clock, listening to the speeches of

friends and foes. From four till half-past twelve! Did ever a "wittler" abstain so long before? And very sanguine they were, too. Indeed, it was impossible to persuade them that victory was not sure. Poor "wittlers"! Very dolorous and chafallen they looked as they marched across the lobby to go home; but no doubt they had their consolation before they went to bed. Still it was an awful blow. Even the Government were astonished at the majority of 74. The most sanguine of the whips had laid it no higher than 50.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 4.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ARMY.

LORD LUCAN called attention to the present organisation of the infantry, entering at great length into the question of the system of regimental depôts, and contending that every regiment ought to have a second battalion in depôt.

LORD DE GREY and RIPON said Lord Lucan would have acted more judiciously if he had first placed his views before the military authorities. A discussion of this question would not, he thought, be conducive to the benefit of the public service.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE entirely concurred with what had been said by Lord De Grey and Ripon, and stated, from his own personal experience in Ireland, that he had come to an entirely different conclusion as to the expediency of second battalions from Lord Lucan. He concluded by quoting the opinion of Sir C. Wetherall, that the Army never worked more smoothly than at present.

After a few words from Lord De Ros and the Duke of Rutland, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JAPAN.—PAPAL AFFAIRS.—MR. COBDEN.

On the motion for adjournment till Monday, various questions were, as usual, addressed to the Government and partly debated.

MR. COCHRANE inquired what steps had been taken to protect our commercial interests in Japan.

SIR J. ACTON asked for papers and information relating to the condition and administration of the Roman States?

MR. PAIK asked whether Mr. Cobden held any diplomatic appointment at Paris?

MR. HENNESSY put a question as to the policy of the British Government, and the advice given by Lord J. Russell in regard to Papal affairs.

LORD J. RUSSELL gave replies and brief explanations upon all these subjects. With reference to Japan, he said that when the last accounts came away there were hopes that the difficulties which had recently arisen would be overcome. Regarding Roman affairs, he stated that the information the British Government obtained was not dependent solely on the reports of diplomatic agents, and he would endeavour to ascertain whether there were any despatches which would throw light upon the subject, observing that he had great respect for the personal character of the present Pope; but there were incidents in ecclesiastical government which were ill-calculated to secure the benefit of the people. As to Italian politics generally, the state of Naples and of Italy, which might bring on complications in Europe, justified, he thought, friendly intervention on our part. Mr. Cobden, he said, had gone from this country as one of the Commissioners under the treaty of commerce with France, being considered one of the best persons to treat with that Government; his travelling expenses were paid, but he had no salary.

THE INDIGO RIOTS.—THE INDIAN ARMY.

MR. KINNAREID and MR. VANSITTART made inquiries respecting the agrarian disturbances in Bengal connected with the cultivation of indigo, both of them inveighing against the alleged oppression of the ryots and the arbitrary character of a recent law making the non-fulfilment of an indigo contract a criminal offence.

Colonel SYKES mooted the subject of the reorganisation of the Indian Army, by inquiring when the judgment of the Council of India would be taken upon the report of the Military Committee.

SIR C. WOOL declined to enter into the subject of the Indian Army, which did not affect India only, but was of imperial moment, in an incidental discussion. Upon the subject of the indigo disturbances he said that the relations between the planters and the ryots had been for some time anything but satisfactory. The planters, being possessed of zemindary rights, entered into contracts with the ryots for cultivating and collecting the plant, for which the latter received advances, fell into debt, and refused to perform their obligations. In this state of things application had been made to the authorities at Calcutta, and a bill had been introduced into the Legislative Council to enforce the contracts by a summary process; but it did not appear that it was intended to subject the infraction of these civil contracts to the criminal law.

After some other subjects had been incidentally discussed, the motion for adjournment was agreed to.

FIRE INSURANCE.

MR. H. SHERIDAN moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the duty chargeable on fire insurances. The bill, he said, was an echo of that of a former session; it did not propose a total repeal of the duty, but, by reducing the tax upon the ordinary risks from 3s. to 1s. per cent, to popularise it, and increase, not diminish, the revenue. He insisted that the duty was a tax either upon property already taxed, or upon prudence and virtue. The amount he proposed to deal with was only £130,000, and the cham would be speedily filled up.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he should not enter into the question whether or not an alteration or reduction of the insurance duty might be a proper subject for the House to entertain when our finances furnished a disposable surplus, or if the pressure of the tax called for its repeal, and the substitution of another in its place. Neither was the case in this instance. He hoped the House would not accede to the motion.

After some discussion the motion was negatived upon a division by 103 to 84.

THE EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.

SIR J. PAXTON moved for a Select Committee to consider the best means of providing for the increasing traffic of the metropolis by the embankment of the Thames. The thoroughfares of London, he observed, were almost impassable; and not only was communication obstructed, but property was deteriorated in value. If a road was made from that House to near London-bridge, by means of an embankment, it would give very great relief to the traffic. The scheme of an embankment of the Thames had been repeatedly recommended; and, owing to the railway bridges already projected, the question must be settled now, or it might never be carried out. The difficulty was to find the means; but he argued that this was an imperial as well as a local question, and that the imperial exchequer should assist the undertaking.

MR. COWPER offered no objection to the motion. No one, he observed, could be blind to the fact that the main arteries of London were becoming choked. A committee could consider the various plans of an embankment, the rights of individuals, and other matters. With respect to the fund, he demurred to the allegation that this matter could be considered in any way imperial. It appeared to him that it was wholly local. Funds, he thought, might be raised by a joint-stock company.

MR. BLACKBURN moved, by way of amendment, to add the words "and how the funds are to be provided from the districts benefited."

In the debate which followed, and in which Lord J. Manners, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Deedes, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Bentinck, and other members took part, it was suggested that the whole matter should be left in the hands of the Metropolitan Board of Works.

The amendment was negatived, and the original motion was agreed to. The orders of the day were then proceeded with, certain bills were forwarded, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, MAY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

SAVOY.

EARL GRANVILLE observed, with reference to a motion on the paper by the Marquis of Clanricarde, that her Majesty's Government were not prepared to produce the papers or to give any information relating to the neutralised portions of Savoy. Under these circumstances, he hoped the noble Marquis would withdraw his motion.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE said he was willing to withdraw it, but expressed a hope that the papers would be produced before the Conference was fixed.

Some formal business was then disposed of, and the House adjourned at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHINA EXPEDITION.

MR. SIDNEY HERBERT stated, in reply to Sir Stafford Northcote, that the troops dispatched to China amounted to 13,350 men of all arms, but that it would be impossible as yet to state what force would ultimately have to be sent there. Should there be any protracted hostilities timely notice would be given to the House of any additional vote of credit that might be required on account of the expedition.

Mr. WALTER brought under the notice of the House a subject personal to himself. On Monday week an article appeared in the *Times* in which Mr. Horsman's name was employed to point a contrast between the affected staidness of members of Parliament and their lively horror of a dissolution. The same evening Mr. Walter urged the passing of some measure of reform, and deprecated a dissolution as a public calamity. Mr. Horsman, stung by the use of his name, identified the speech with the article, and sent Mr. Walter word that he should call the attention of the House to the insult offered to every member, though pointed at one. Mr. Walter accepted the challenge; but, to avoid interruption to public business, the "explanations" were deferred till Monday night. Mr. Walter then read a portion of a correspondence which had passed between himself and Mr. Horsman, and stated that he had nothing to explain with reference to the language which he had used in the House of Commons, as all he had done was to deprecate a dissolution of Parliament at the present moment as most inconvenient and undesirable. With regard to the article in the *Times*, he assured the House that he had no knowledge of the author of it. He repudiated the idea that he should be held responsible for any political opinions that might be expressed in that journal, of which he was not, as had been alleged, the principal proprietor, although he admitted that he had a large interest in its prosperity.

Mr. HORSMAN expressed the regret which he felt at being compelled to defend his conduct in a public manner, when the matter in dispute might have been settled by personal explanation. He denounced as mischievous the doctrine of irresponsibility which Mr. Walter had set up. He held that that gentleman who, if not the leading, was a leading, proprietor of the *Times*, and presided at its councils, was responsible for the article in question, the substance of which was that all it apprehended was a dissolution of Parliament, because such an event would entail considerable expense, some hard work, and probably the loss of many seats. This, he contended, was equivalent to a charge that the House of Commons would sell their votes out of a selfish regard for their own interests. A grosser calumny or a more foul and insulting aspersion could not be cast upon the House of Commons. The speech of Mr. Walter gave weight to the aspersions of the *Times*. He contended that the practice of that journal for a series of years had been alternately to laud and calumniate, to flatter and to vilify, public men and public measures. Other journals were content to oppose the Minister, the *Times* endeavoured to crush the man; and there was not an eminent member either of the Government or of the Opposition who had not been vilified and praised in turn. Having read a very long letter, extending over several sheets of paper, in the course of which Mr. Horsman expressed in strong language his views of the responsibility which attached to Mr. Walter, in consequence of his connection with the press, the right hon. gentleman argued that, if Mr. Walter paid the writers of the *Times*, and directed their inspiration, he was as much responsible for their sentiments as any public speaker could be for his platform speeches. Mr. Horsman concluded by asking Mr. Walter to explain what were the attractions which now drew Mr. Delane to Lord Palmerston, or in what manner he could explain the anomalous position occupied by Mr. Lowe as a contributor to the *Times* and an occupant of the Treasury bench.

Lord PALMERSTON said that he had been the object of the sustained and bitter hostility of the *Times*, and that he believed he had the honour of being one of the best-abused men in the kingdom. He had, however, made it a point to submit to these attacks with patience, as he was content to rely upon his public conduct as an answer to such aspersions. Mr. Horsman appeared anxious to know what were the influences which had drawn Mr. Delane towards him. If by that the right hon. gentleman meant to imply that any attention paid to Mr. Delane could influence the *Times* he could only say that he would be very glad to plead guilty to the soft impeachment. But the only influence which led Mr. Delane to him was the influence of society. He had met that gentleman frequently in society, and he had invited him to his roof, as he had invited Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Walpole, the Earl of Derby, and other gentlemen, whose object in mixing together was to participate in the enjoyment to be derived from the society of educated and intellectual persons.

Mr. DISRAELI deprecated the practice which appeared to be growing up of late of relying upon newspaper articles as authority. Such a practice was, in his opinion, calculated to degrade the dignity of the House and to lower the tone of the debates. With regard to the manner in which the noble Lord at the head of the Government had been abused by the press, it did not seem that, in a physical sense, it had done him any harm. (He Disraeli) had likewise come in for his share of abuse, but he was now case-hardened to all attacks of the kind; and, for his own part, as long as public criticism was able and intelligent he did not care what degree of general malignity might pervade it. "If," said he, "the press of this country is to be a free press, it is not for us to criticise with too great promptitude or severity intellectual efforts, which are written under conditions of immense difficulty. And we must also recollect that these enterprises are responsible to the general opinion of the country, and that opinion cannot be enlisted in their favour unless, on the whole, whether through their information, or their criticisms, or their general intelligence, they are found to be of great advantage to the community."

THE WINE LICENSES.
The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Refreshment Houses and Wine Licenses Bill was resumed by Mr. AYTON, who opposed the measure on the ground that it would abrogate the ancient law of the country and increase the facilities for obtaining intoxicating liquors.

Mr. LIDDELL also opposed the bill, urging that its tendency would be to demoralise the public by encouraging habits of intemperance.

Mr. ALDERMAN SALOMONS supported the bill, which he considered would supply a great public want.

Mr. PALK and Mr. VINCENT SCULLY opposed the bill.

Mr. E. JAMES would vote against the second reading because he regarded the measure as an attack upon the vested interests of a large and respectable body of tradesmen, whose capital was embarked in it. He was also opposed to it because it would open the door to enormous frauds, and make every policeman a spy and every magistrate an inquisitor.

Mr. VILLIERS, as chairman of the Licensing Committee, explained the impression which the evidence elicited before that tribunal had made upon his mind, and contended that all the witnesses had joined in condemning the system as detrimental to society.

Mr. HENLEY declared that the bill was in almost every point conflicting and contradictory to the report of the Committee to which Mr. Villiers alluded. That Committee recommended that there should be one license for the sale of all intoxicating drinks, and that the license should be issued by the magistrates; but the bill under discussion did not include any provision of that kind. He had no objection to the proposition that every person who sold wine should sell food also; but the Government had taken the converse of that proposition by insisting that all persons who sold food should be subjected to the surveillance of the police in order to compel them to take out wine or beer licenses.

Mr. BUXTON confessed that he had intended to vote for the bill, but that the speeches of Mr. Hardy and Mr. Henley had converted him into an opponent. He believed that the bill would lead to the universal sale of ardent spirits without any check on the abuses which would be entailed by such a system. As the measure was manifestly prepared without due consideration of all the difficulties to be encountered in legislating for such a subject he hoped the Government would withdraw it, and bring in another next Session which would apply the same system of precaution to the sale of wine and spirits.

Sir M. PETO gave an independent support to the bill, as his own experience convinced him that the populations of wine-growing countries were amongst the most steady and sober in the world.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied in detail to the arguments adduced against the bill, and expressed his willingness to introduce a clause exempting from the visits of the police the shops of bakers and confectioners. He denied that the bill was disapproved by the public opinion of England. The real question before the House was whether it would attempt to modify and improve the present licensing system, which had been so generally condemned. The measure had been drawn in strict conformity with the spirit of the recommendations of the Committee on Licensing, and he hoped the House would by a decisive majority support that Committee.

On a division the second reading was carried by 267 to 193.

The Exchequer Bills Bill was read a third time and passed, the Irish Census Bill received a second reading, and the House adjourned.

**TUESDAY, MAY 8.
HOUSE OF LORDS.**

REVISION OF THE LITURGY.

Lord EMBURY moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty praying her Majesty to be pleased to appoint a Commission to prepare such alterations and amendments in the Canon and Book of Common Prayer as to them may appear desirable, and to consider of such other matters as in their judgment may most conduce to the ends above mentioned. His Lordship entered at great length into the consideration of the points by which Dissenters were prevented from joining the Church, or which confirmed their opposition to it. He maintained that the present was a period favourable for removing difficulties which had led to disunion, and that there could be no valid objection to his proposal, for which a precedent existed in the late removal from the Prayer-book of certain special services.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY opposed the motion, although he was willing to give credit to the noble Lord who had introduced the subject for a sincere desire to promote the interests of the Church. He regarded the proposal as likely to inflict material injury upon the Establishment.

Lord LYTTELTON also opposed the motion.

The Bishop of LONDON denied that the Episcopal Bench were opposed to

any revision of the formularies of the Church, although they were unanimously opposed to the present motion, because they considered that no grievance had been proved which called for the appointment of a commission for the revision of the Prayer-book.

Earl STANHOPE having expressed his dissent to the motion, Earl GRANVILLE recommended Lord EMBURY to withdraw it.

The Bishop of OXFORD entered his strenuous protest against such a motion being entertained.

After a few words from the Bishop of CASHIEL, Lord EMBURY withdrew his motion, and the House adjourned.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE PAPER DUTY.**

On the order of the day for the third reading of the Paper Duty Repeal Bill.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE moved, as an amendment—"That the present state of the finances of the country rendered it undesirable to proceed further with the repeal of the excise duty on paper." The hon. Baronet he objected to striking away direct taxation when there was nothing to make up for it but the income tax, which all parties in the House agreed should not be a permanent source of revenue. He contended that the financial state of the country was such that Parliament would not be warranted in parting with so large a source of revenue, more especially as there was every reason to believe that the estimates would not be sufficient to cover the extraordinary expenditure of the country.

Mr. M. GIBSON said Sir Stafford Northcote's resolution would entail a change in the total financial policy of the Government, and derange the whole operations of a trade in which a capital of £10,000,000 was invested. He denied that any cause had been shown why Parliament should retrace its steps, and he called upon the House not to reject a measure which contained within it the germ of a great moral benefit to the masses of the country.

Mr. BALL expressed a belief that, while the repeal of the paper duty might possibly tend slightly to reduce the price of books and paper, that advantage would be more than counterbalanced by the evil which would be entailed by giving an advantage to the foreign manufacture to the detriment of the home produce.

Mr. FULLER supported, and Sir M. FARQUHAR opposed, the bill.

Lord H. VANE confessed that, unless the Chancellor of the Exchequer could give the House some satisfactory assurances of his ability to meet the public burdens next year, without the infliction of new taxes, he would not like to part with so large an item of revenue as the produce of the paper duty.

Mr. ELLICE felt compelled to vote against the third reading of the bill, for it was impossible as yet to tell what demands might be made upon the revenue next year. Looking at the paper duty as an abstract question, however, he admitted that it could not be defended.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER asserted that it was too late to make any departure from those financial arrangements, the principle of which the House had already sanctioned. The extra penny of the income tax had already been levied and paid by a large number of her Majesty's subjects, and it had been understood that the million so derived was correlative with the repeal of the paper duty. There was no precedent for such a course as that which Sir Stafford Northcote had invited the House to adopt, for it had always been the practice to regard legislative changes of this sort as certain when Parliament had deliberately sanctioned their principal stages. To refuse, under present circumstances, to read the bill a third time would be to shock public confidence and to disappoint the expectations of the people. He felt confident that the majority of the House would not sanction the breach of a legislative promise.

Mr. T. BARING denied that the rejection of the bill on the third reading would inflict any detriment upon the paper trade, as the manufacturers would rather have the duty remain than be exposed to unequal competition with the foreigner. Looking to the uncertainties of the future, he could not consent to part with a tax which pressed so lightly upon the people and yet produced so much to the revenue.

Mr. DISRAELI vindicated the course which he had adopted two years ago in voting for the repeal of the paper duty, and argued that the circumstances of the Exchequer were widely different at that time. The sound state of the revenue was the only foundation upon which Parliament could build up any plans for the amelioration of the people, and surely it could not be said that the finances of the country were at present in a state to justify such an experiment as the repeal of the paper duty. He repudiated the idea that they were to remit the duty whether they could afford it or not. The past policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not such as to inspire the House with confidence, for he had failed in all the great projects of finance which he had urged with the tone of a dictator and the tyranny of a despot.

At half-past one o'clock the House divided, when the amendment was negatived by 219 to 210. The bill was then read a third time.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.
FACTORY LABOUR.**

On the order for going into Committee upon the Bleaching and Dyeing Works Bill, moved by Mr. CROOK.

Mr. BAZLEY moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee. He was favourable, he said, to legislating upon this question; but, with a warm desire, on one hand, that the labourer should not be oppressed, he felt, on the other, that capital should not be unnecessarily sacrificed. He claimed this investigation as an act of justice to the master bleachers and dyers, who would consent to any reasonable proposition, but who objected to regulations which, while they would fetter their industry, would be prejudicial to the interests of the workpeople themselves.

Lord ASHLEY opposed this motion. There was enough evidence before the House to enable it to arrive at a correct conclusion upon the subject. He disclaimed any imputation upon the master bleachers as a body; the complaint was not against the men, but against the system.

Colonel W. PATTER said the bill, with a philanthropic object, would interfere materially with the commercial interests of the bleaching trade. He should prefer placing the trade under the Printworks Act; but he would accede to the proposal to refer this bill to a Select Committee if the inquiry were restricted, so that legislation might not be thrown over to another Session.

Lord J. MANNERS said if the House assented to the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee it would reopen the whole question, and they must make up their minds to shelve it for this year.

Sir J. GRAHAM said he had voted for the second reading of the bill, and nothing should induce him to take a course that would indirectly have the effect of shelving the question for this Session. He thought the time had arrived for extending the regulations of the Factory and Printworks Acts to bleaching-works; but the subject required great caution. Upon the whole, he was of opinion that it would be wise to refer the bill to a well-selected Committee, the instructions to which should be drawn with care.

Mr. HENLEY would be ready to refer the bill simply to a Select Committee, but should object to the Committee taking evidence.

After some remarks by Sir E. Colebrooke, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Packer, Mr. ROEBUCK said that, having come to the conclusion that legislation on this subject was necessary, and that it should take place this year, he should not object to the bill being referred to a Select Committee to discuss its clauses, as it would occupy only a few days; but it should be distinctly understood that the House was determined to legislate this year.

Mr. COBBETT and Major EDWARDS were opposed to a reference to a Committee.

Sir G. LEWIS said the question was whether it was likely that the clauses of the bill would be settled more satisfactorily in a Select Committee or in a Committee of the whole House. He was rather prejudiced in favour of the latter course; at the same time, if the promoters of the bill preferred a Select Committee, it would not materially impede its progress.

After some further discussion, Sir H. CAIRNS observed that there were special circumstances connected with bleaching-works which rendered the Factory Acts inapplicable to them; and the surest and most expeditious course was to refer the bill to a Select Committee, who, if any point appeared to call for particular inquiry, could apply to the House.

Upon a division Mr. BAZLEY's amendment was negatived by 181 to 147. The House then went into Committee upon the bill, the clauses of which were discussed during the remainder of the sitting.

The House adjourned at about six o'clock.

**THURSDAY, MAY 10.
HOUSE OF LORDS.
PAPER REPEAL DUTY BILL.**

This bill was brought up from the House of Commons and read a first time.

Lord MONTAGUE gave notice of his intention, on the motion for the second reading of the bill, to move that it be read a second time that day six months.

The Earl of WICKLOW hoped that the Government would afford ample time for the consideration of the measure before they asked for the second reading. He should be sorry to see that House deviating from the usual practice by rejecting bills of that character coming up from the other House. If, however, the Government were determined to persevere in hurrying on the second reading, he thought it would be the bounden duty of their Lordships, under the exceptional circumstances of the case, to reject the measure.

At a subsequent part of the evening, on the second reading of the Customs Bill.

The Earl of DERRY said the reason why the party with whom he was connected did not offer a substantial opposition to the Customs Bill was because they felt that the overthrow of that measure would upset the arrangements entered into by commercial men upon the faith that it would be accepted by Parliament. They considered the treaty entered into with France a most imprudent act on the part of her Majesty's Government; and the proceedings taken by the French Government since they were armed with the power which the treaty gave them showed that they were inclined to exercise it without mercy. In respect, however, to the Paper Duty Repeal Bill, his party could fairly meet that question without interfering with the financial affairs of the Government. His noble friend had given notice of an amendment for the rejection of the bill. He would only say that no exertion on his part should be wanted to save the Government upwards of £1,500,000 of revenue.

The Public Improvements Bill and the Petition of Right Bill were severally read a second time.

A series of bills for the consolidation of the criminal law passed through Committee.

The Exchequer Bills Bill (£13,230,000) and the Customs Bill were read a second time.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.
THE REFORM BILLS.**

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to Mr. Baxter and Mr. Scully, said it would be inconvenient to postpone the Committee upon the English Reform Bill until after the Scotch and Irish bills had been read a second time, because the effect of such a postponement would be to reopen the whole question of the franchise. With regard to postponing the latter measure until next year, either Lord Palmerston or he would state the course which the Government contemplated pursuing.

THE LATE ABSTRACTION OF EXAMINATION-PAPERS.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in answer to Major Sibthorp, said that the War Office had been in communication with the police authorities on the subject of the late abstraction of the examination-papers, and were not without hope of detecting the offenders.

THE NATIONAL DEFENCES.

Mr. S. HERBERT, in reply to Mr. Palk, said that the report of the Commission on the National Defences would be ready in a few days, and until it was produced he should not ask a vote from the House for those defences.

THE POOR LAW BOARD.

Mr. C. VILLIERS, in answer to Sir M. Peto, said that the Government intended to propose the renewal of the Act constituting the Poor Law Board, but not to create any fresh powers relating to the removal of nuisances.

WINE LICENSES TO REFRESHMENT-HOUSES.

In Committee of Ways and Means, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the new scale of duties to be charged upon licenses to refreshment-houses, and upon licenses to sell foreign and British wines therein.

Mr. AYTON denounced the proposed system of licensing, and complained that the Committee was left without any information as to what the term "refreshment-houses" was to mean.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the bill would define what those houses were to be, and by agreeing to the resolution no one would be pledged to any particular description of house. The right hon. gentleman, in reply to Lord J. Manners, said that if Ireland and Scotland were included the new licensing system would, be believed, yield to the revenue from £60,000 to £70,000 per annum, the larger proportion of which would accrue from wine licenses.

A discussion then arose with regard to the description of houses which the term "refreshment-houses" was to include, and also as to the power of interference on the part of the police which would be given under this new licensing system.

The Committee then divided upon the first portion of the resolutions charging 10s. 6d. for a license to keep a refreshment-house when the rent is under £20 a year, which was agreed to by 173 to 103.

On the next item in the resolution, imposing a duty of £1 is. upon refreshment-houses where the rental was upwards of £20,

Mr. AYTON moved to substitute 10s. 6d., in order to create one uniform rate of duty.

After some discussion, the amendment was rejected by a majority of 159 to 88, and the original proposition was agreed to.

The remainder of the resolutions were agreed to without opposition.

The House then went into Committee upon the bill, and the remainder of the night was occupied by a consideration of its clauses.

LORD GREY AND LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

A lively and entertaining correspondence has passed between Lord Grey and Lord John Russell. Lord Grey, in his late speech against Lord John's Reform measures, accused him of having committed his colleagues to the question of Reform upon his own individual responsibility, and without previous consultation with them. The statement was supposed to have reference to Lord John's abortive measure brought forward in 1852, and accordingly Mr. Walpole repeated it in that sense during the recent debate on the Reform Bill. Mr. Walpole was, however, interrupted by Lord John Russell, who made the brief but emphatic remark, "It is not true." Lord Grey thereupon addresses a letter to "dear Lord John," in which he explains that he referred to a declaration of opinion made by his Lordship when Premier, some three or four years previously, and that this was the pledge which was made without the knowledge of the Cabinet, and which he and other members of the then Government deemed inexpedient. Lord John makes a caustic reply, and one not at all calculated to restore Lord Grey's equanimity. He first states that he has referred back to his speeches, delivered in 1848 and 1849, and finds that they are of "a very Conservative nature." He then, with much grandeur, rebukes Lord Grey for having divulged Cabinet squabbles. "I have no recollection of anything which passed in the Cabinet at that time, but if I had I should not think myself at liberty to refer to any differences in the Cabinet to which I belonged without the permission of the Queen, which I have not asked, and do not mean to ask."

With unwary candour, Lord Grey had referred to his own harassed position at the Colonial Office as his reason for not deserting his colleagues after Lord John's unadvised pledge about Reform on their return to power after Lord Derby's failure. This recalled to Lord John's recollection the pleasing circumstance that he had had a good deal of work to do to defend Lord Grey's administration of the colonies, as he does not omit to remind him. Unfortunately, Lord John Russell goes a step further. He says he little thought that while he was endeavouring to back up Lord Grey, and attend him as his squire in a tour through fifty colonies, Lord Grey "was all the time hoarding up accusations to be used against him eleven or twelve years afterwards in a place where he could not reply." This is a slip for which even Lord John must be sorry. Lord Grey may well be able to remember that he was against any revival of the Reform agitation, and annoyed at Lord John Russell putting his foot into it without a word to his colleagues, and yet be guiltless of the ungrateful intentions ascribed to him.

But all this is preliminary to what is intended to be the most damaging part of the letter—viz., a quotation from a speech delivered by Lord Grey in 1852, in which that noble Lord not only explained the grounds upon which Lord John thought it desirable that a Reform Bill should be introduced, but added, "and I think he is right!"

Lord Grey's answer to this is, "You know perfectly well that it is the duty of a member of Government, when its acts are attacked in Parliament, to state, as well as he can, the reasons by which the Cabinet he belongs to has been guided, even though sometimes those reasons may not have been conclusive to his own mind. My object in that speech was to explain as I understood them your motives for the course you had taken, without implying my own concurrence in opinions which it was notorious to yourself and to all our colleagues that I was far from sharing. It appears from the report you have quoted that I was betrayed into using some expressions going beyond this line, and undoubtedly it was not my intention to do so."

It must be confessed that the correspondence is not assuring to those who put their faith in statesmen.

A NAPOLEONIC CEREMONY.—A funeral service was solemnised on Saturday in the chapel of the Tuileries, being the anniversary of the death of Napoleon I. at St. Helena. The Emperor, Empress, and the Princes and Princesses of the Imperial family were present. The health of Prince Jerome not permitting him to be present at the mass at the Tuileries, he was represented at the Church of the Invalides (where a funeral service was likewise performed) by an aide-de-camp, and by the officers of his household. The Church of the Invalides was filled by the survivors of the old Imperial army, attired in their antiquated uniforms.



SICILIAN COSTUMES.



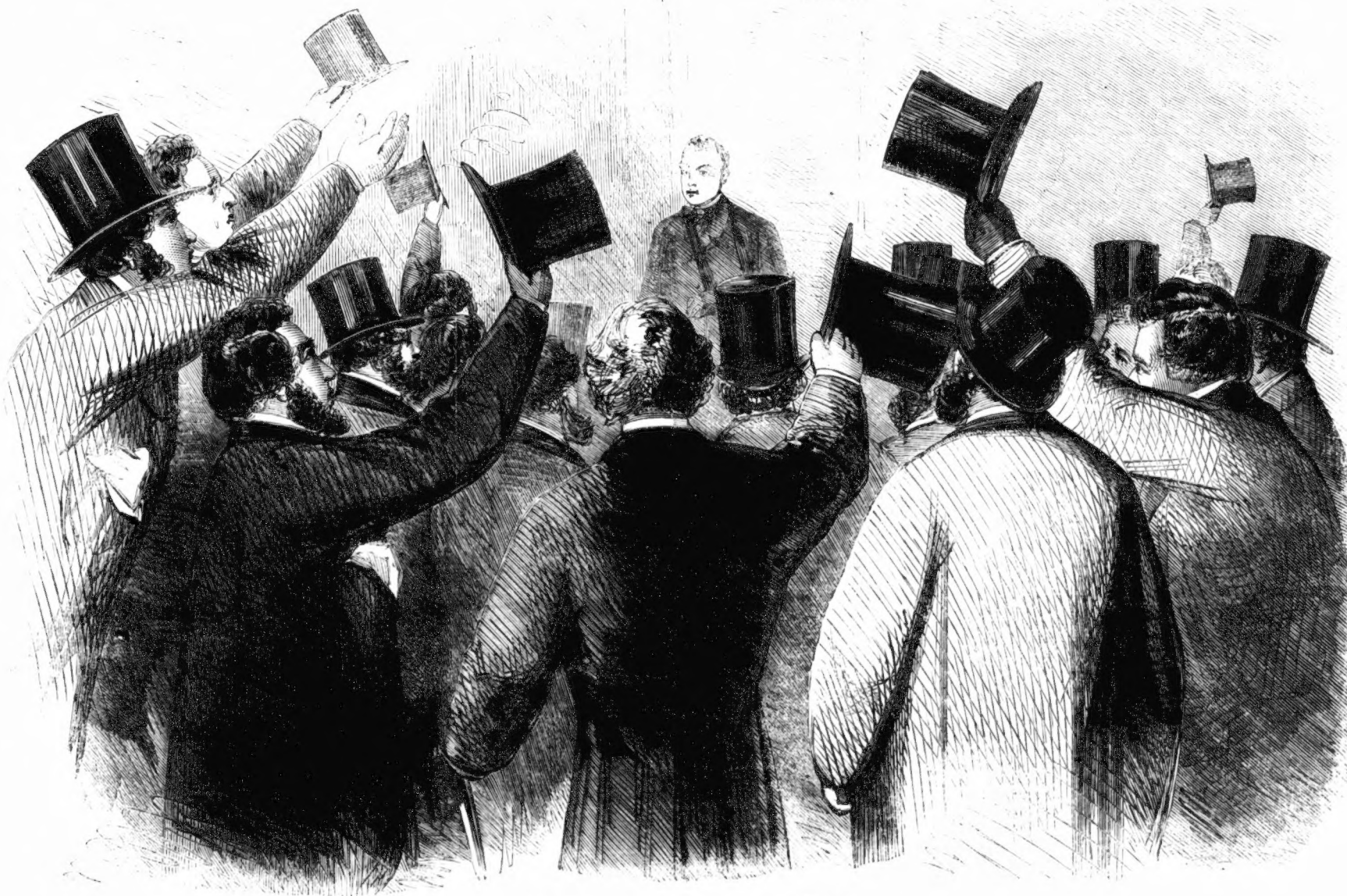
INSPECTION OF THE LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE BY THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

On Saturday the City of London Rifle Brigade, about twelve hundred strong, was inspected by the Duke of Cambridge, the Colonel of the brigade, on the parade-ground in front of the Horse Guards, St. James's Park. The ground was kept by the Westminster Volunteers; but the comparatively small body proved wholly inadequate to keep order among

the thousands who strove to get into position in the front. For nearly two hours the volunteers worked with great energy and with ceaseless good humour to keep the crowds within the line; and it was highly amusing to see how, as soon as they had effected their object in one part, the people swarmed again over the whole area in the greatest confusion. The gallant Westminsters charged with the barrels of their rifles, for,

happily, there were no bayonets fixed; they threatened with the butt ends; they used them lengthwise against the most prominent of the eager sightseers, but still the crowd kept surging over the boundaries. Sometimes a more active and adventurous youth would break through, and try to run over to the opposite side; a chase was immediately commenced by one or two of the volunteers, and



TOM SAYERS AT THE LIVERPOOL EXCHANGE.

the offending party was brought back, not, however, to the place whence he had started, for the "ring" had been broken, and the task of dressing the line was again to be performed amid the laughter of the crowd. About five o'clock four of the Life Guards mounted made their appearance, and the effect upon the crowd was magical. There was a general cry of "Here's the reg'lars!" and a volunteer movement to the rear, which the sight of a regiment of Westminster Light Infantry could not have accomplished. About a dozen mounted Life Guardsmen, with their curvetting and prancing black steeds, soon put the mass of spectators into something like shape, and the front of the large square was dotted here and there with the light grey uniforms of the gallant Westminster force.

As soon as the ground was clear, the London Rifle Brigade, preceded by the band, marched into the parade, and took up their position in line on three sides of the extended square. The Duke of Cambridge, attended by his Aides-de-Camp, arrived on the ground at half-past five, and rode round the front and rear of the force. The brigade then formed up into companies, and proceeded to march from the left round the parade, in open column of companies, at the slow, the quick, and at the double. In the march round, the brigade had to wheel at each of the four angles, and considerable interest was evinced in this part of their movement. The left wheel in the first movement was rather uneven in some of the companies; but in the second the men gained more confidence, and wheeled with great precision. The fifth and second companies were remarkably perfect, and great cheering and clapping of hands rewarded them for their very steady and perfect movements. The march at the double also elicited great cheering. The brigade re-formed, changed front twice, and advanced in line at the quick and at the double. In the latter movement the brigade swept down with extreme regularity, and the long dark lines were brought up at the "halt" in a smart and soldier-like manner. The men then faced right about and again advanced in line, amid the enthusiastic cheering of the crowds of spectators. After some further marching and counter-marching the brigade formed a hollow square, inclosing the Duke of Cambridge, Lieut.-Colonel Hicks, and others; when his Royal Highness, in a few words, complimented the men on their proficiency in their drill, and expressed the great satisfaction which he had derived from the inspection. The men then formed four abreast, and, headed by the band, marched back to the playground of Christ's Hospital, where they had paraded before proceeding to the Horse Guards.

There could not have been less than from 25,000 to 30,000 persons present; the roofs of the Horse Guards and adjacent buildings were covered with spectators; the windows were occupied by ladies; and walls and lamp-posts, trees and railings, and every spot on which the London gamin and eager sightseers could perch was appropriated in spite of many good-humoured remonstrances from the sentries.

A grand review of volunteers is announced to take place in Hyde Park on the 18th inst.

There was a strong muster of the Volunteers on Wednesday evening in Holland Park. In all about two thousand men assembled. The review was fixed to commence at a quarter to six; but it was quite seven before all the corps were on the ground. At a little after six o'clock her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Alice, drove up the avenue to Holland House, and there is very little doubt that the Royal visit was made in the expectation of seeing the whole brigade assembled. As it was, however, only the Westminsters were on the ground. Immediately on the arrival of the Royal cortège Earl Grosvenor, the Colonel of the Westminsters, marched up his regiment in open column of companies, and, wheeling into line, the whole corps advanced in admirable order, and for the first time her Majesty received a Royal salute from a regiment of her volunteers. The whole manoeuvre was really well done. Her Majesty then quitted the avenue. Soon afterwards a detachment of the Engineers made their appearance, followed by the St. George's Volunteers, a company of the Volunteer Guards, the South Middlesex Volunteers, and the West Middlesex. The brigade was then formed, and went through certain evolutions admirably.

As it is considered probable that her Majesty will review the Volunteer forces later in the summer, no field-day will take place in Hyde-park on May 18.

SAYERS AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE announcement that the champion would pay a visit to Liverpool on Monday week drew together at and around the Lime-street Railway Station an immense concourse of persons, all eager to get a look at the man who had supplied the one great subject of conversation in all circles for a week past. On the arrival of Sayers he was vociferously received, and to such a height did the enthusiasm run that his more ardent admirers took the horses from the car and drew it in triumph to the Talbot Hotel, where he proposed to sojourn. There he had to show himself at the window, in answer to deafening cheers from the crowd outside. In the afternoon he appeared on "Change." He had been expected there, and for more than an hour previous the commotion in the rooms, on the "flags," and around the neighbourhood, was very great. By the time of the champion's arrival the great square and the streets leading to it were choked. Cheer after cheer rent the air when he approached. He was conducted into the rooms, and way with difficulty was made for his progress to the upper end. The presentation of a purse, containing about 120 sovereigns, then took place. In thanking the subscribers, Sayers made no attempt at a speech; indeed the continuous broadsides of cheers would have ensured failure had he done so. All he did say was, "Gentlemen, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind manner in which you have received me." He then retired. The whole reception was a genuine ovation.

While at Liverpool Sayers visited her Majesty's ships *Hastings* and *Majestic*, invited by the officers at the earnest request of the men. Captain Mends, of the *Majestic*, availed himself of the occasion to read a moral on the virtues of courage and endurance. When Sayers was about to leave the ship the seamen asked permission to man the rigging, which they did, loudly cheering the champion.

Sayers has since addressed a letter to the *Times*, in which he thanks the public for their patronage. "It is not for me," he says, "to pass any remark upon my late struggle, when the New World was pitted against the Old, but one thing I can say in honesty, that I did my best for the land of my birth and dearest affections. I had opposed to me one worthy of me, and whose activity, rapidity, and pluck it was no small task to encounter. Sprung from our own race, the Americans inherit our best qualities, and, as our conflicts with them have in the progress of time ended in peace, so may every bitterness engendered by the late struggle for the championship pass away for ever." He expresses the hope that, "to whatever period Providence may extend my life, no act of mine, either in private or public life, will be unworthy of one who has received the notice of the *Times* newspaper."

The editor of *Bell's Life*, who was the referee at the late fight, informs his readers that two superintendents of police have waited upon him with an official message, to the effect that, if the fight were renewed in any place within reach of a Secretary of State's warrant, all persons who were concerned it would be criminally prosecuted. This warning makes the editor anxious that the difficulty between the two men should now be amicably adjusted, and he has accordingly expressed his intention "to wash his hands of the business."

FRENCH CRITICISM ON THE FIGHT.

The fight has been commented on rather widely in the French press. The *Debats* publishes an article by M. John Lemoine, in which he says:—"We see in this struggle the Old World and the New pitted against each other—old England and young America. The American giant is tall and robust like the trees of the New World. He is built after the pattern of its forest lakes and rivers, he is the type of primitive nature. His opponent is the model of the Old World, the concentrated product of centuries, the essence of civilisation, the creature of art. This Englishman is a masterpiece of cultivation. But we must never forget that both the athletes are men of the same blood and race. It is England in its adolescence and England in its virility, but still the same England. Between the two there is rivalry, but no enmity. The two

boxers may fight each other like Homer's heroes, but they would unite against a foreigner. The Englishman cannot help being proud when he sees an American. He says, 'It is I who made him what he is.' He is proud of the blows he receives from his formidable child, and recognises his own blood. We desire to observe here how thoroughly this Englishman, Sayers, represents his nation. Patient endurance, indomitable energy, invincible perseverance, a tacit oath to die rather than yield—those distinguishing attributes of the English character are strongly marked in this pugilistic drama. Although we may scandalise some delicate tastes, we cannot help admiring that miraculous fortitude and power of will which sustained the Englishman while fighting for two hours with one arm against the human avalanche which was continually rolling upon him. Five and twenty times was he flung upon the sward, and five and twenty times he rose again, the living image of England on the field of battle. History tells us that Englishmen are always beaten in the first campaign; like all men of strong character, they gather force from misfortune. It seems that, like Anteus, they must kiss the earth before they know their strength, for after a series of defeats we find them ever masters of the field of battle. If they are not thoroughly beaten at first their destruction will be a work of time. But there is still another reason which has made us allude to this singular fight. We mean the profound and universal and ardent interest which it aroused in England, and which seems to us to have a political significance. During the last year and a half volunteer rifle corps have been formed in England, and the newly-awakened popular interest in the recent fight is intimately connected with the prevalent idea among Englishmen of the necessity of taking measures for the defence of their territory. Several of the French newspapers, in speaking of this fight, have only seen in it a rude and disgusting exhibition. For ourselves we recognise the play of animal instinct, but we think that there is something else to which attention should be paid. The first defence of England consists in her wooden walls; and her second line of defence consists in the broad chests and formidable arms which play their part in contests like that which we have described. England sees in them a provision for the defence of the country. Such, it seems to us, is the moral of this fight—such the explanation of the interest it has excited in every class of English society—and such is our excuse for having occupied the attention of our readers with a description of it."

Another journalist also treats us to an account of the fight, and talks of the "white daughters of Albion, with their fair hair, rushing to witness it." This gentleman says:—"Deprived of the right eye, which swelled like a balloon under the formidable blows of Tom Sayers, the American raised his powerful hands, which nothing could resist, against his adversary. Do you hear the cracking of the jawbone? Do you see those teeth vomited by the hero with his blood? That is the jawbone and those are the teeth of the brave and unlucky Tom Sayers. Your hearts palpitate and tremble, O! young virgins of England; you fear for the glory of your beautiful country. Be reassured! Tom lives yet. In vain the blows of the invincible Jonathan fall like hail on the indomitable face of John Bull. Tom Sayers remains unhurt, like an old oak after a storm. By a second blow Sayers knocked out his adversary's left eye. Ah! what a magnificent blow! Shout, clergymen, and you, young ladies, with eyes so soft!" The writer believes, or affects to believe, that the ring was half surrounded by ladies—as the ring at Bayonne (in civilised France) is, whenever men, horses, and bulls mutually torment and gore each other.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1860.

LORD EBURY ON THE LITURGY.

LORD EBURY is one of those men whom the world is in the habit of styling busybodies. He is an instance of the truth that nothing but great abilities can prevent any one from being a kind of nuisance who takes up the duty of putting things to rights as the business of his life. Some years back his Lordship took the observance of Sunday in hand, and produced some of the most scandalous riots of the day. Of course, his intentions were excellent; indeed, that is the worst of him. A man who openly professes mischief can be put down; but what are you to do with a respectable mediocrity whose fussiness is benevolent and his very boring virtuous? To snub him seems cruel; yet it is impossible to encourage him, for in that case you would become committed to his views. And his views are dangerous, because they lead him to meddle with the most delicate and difficult subjects, subjects altogether beyond his parts, while their character tempts his benevolence. Commit yourself to Lord Ebury, and you would be in for excitements like those of the greatest agitations, being all the while under a guidance about as vigorous as that of an elderly lady.

For instance, here is the question of the Liturgy. The Liturgy is a very noble one; it is also a very ancient one. But objections can be made to it; and, probably, if the country were in a state of perfect religious harmony and impartiality, a band of men as able as the old Fathers of the Church could considerably improve it to the general satisfaction. What, however, is the actual position of affairs? In the first place, the country is singularly divided on religious questions, and these divisions are represented partly in the Church itself. The Liturgy could not be revised without doctrinal questions coming up, sides would be taken *pro* and *con*, all the newspapers would turn theological, both Houses would have field days on the great matters at stake, and the Prayer-book would be a bone of contention in the public arena. How much its prestige might be shaken by such a process we are almost afraid to think; but it is well worth notice that the effect of such a fight about any object is always to lower its value and rub off its sanctity. The battle itself, the renown of the combatants on each side, quite overshadows the importance of what is fought for. We need only instance the damage done to certain of the more mystical figures of the Prophecies by the eternal wranglings kept up about their meaning. A blasphemer will joke about the "little horn," the scarlet lady, or the number of the beast, who would not venture to bring his irreverent pleasantries inside the shadow of the Mount of Olives.

Of course we are aware that it may be said that nothing can ever be improved if we shrink from the task of attempting it for fear of the consequences. But, to begin with, the Bible and the Liturgy have a position of their own: reforming them is not like reforming the Corporation of London, or even the representation of the House of Commons. The religion of the country has not changed in the same sort of way as its political

and social state; while the very tinge of antiqueness which our sacred books have is an element in their attractiveness like the grey timeworn look of a country church. Once break in on the associations of the fixed Book of Public Prayer, and we defy you not to vulgarise it. It would be no longer the book of our ancestors, the great literary link between their worship and ours. It would smack of Select Committees, and smell of Mr. Barry's paint and lime. Is it worth while even to risk such a result? And what do you hope in exchange? Harmony? Why, the attempt would divide the Church into a party of Reformers of the Prayer-book, and a party of Conservatives of it. Where there is party there will be some faction. Each sect will want the revision conducted in its own interests, and in accordance with its peculiar views. The Church's enemies will side, of course, with the innovators, in hopes of lowering her dignity as a traditional and established Church. This may have some attractions for Lord Ebury's party, but it is not the interest of the Church's real friends to make it possible.

The minor point—whether the service is not inconveniently long, and too full of repetitions—is a comparatively harmless one. We do not, however, believe that any great number of people are so much annoyed by the length of the service as Lord Ebury; or that, generally, the real church-goer is likely to grudge half an hour more or less. The masses are doomed to such incessant unrelieved toil that we cannot wonder if they make Sunday a holiday, while those who are indifferent to all public worship will not be bribed by a clergyman offering to "cut it short" to stir from home or sacrifice their walk. Indeed, this is not, as it appears to us, the *direction* in which a Church Reformer should press his object of making Church more attractive. Let him rather endeavour to elevate and enrich the tone of preaching; let him urge on the clergy a more *natural* and vivacious style of exposition and exhortation. There are some dry preachers who would probably take the time stolen from the Liturgy and add it to their discourses; and how would the poor fellow who has been coaxed to the building by a promise of shorter worship like that!

Religious affairs, generally, are, we think, going on better than might have been expected, which is another very good reason for not disturbing the Church. Our piety wants unction and warmth, and the secular tendencies of the age are not very favourable to spiritual life of any kind. But whether we take church-building, or the literature of such subjects, or the absence of low anti-religious literature, or the general tone of the working classes towards the Church, we do find an improvement such as could hardly have been expected thirty years ago. Why do not those who have self-confidence enough (like the Ebury school) to call themselves "the religious world," *par excellence*, make a right and wise use, rather than a foolish, meddlesome one, of this revival, or reaction, or whatever else it may be called? The way to do this is not by agitating for changes, but by spreading the "means of grace" actively on foundations already existing. If agitation was desirable, of the kind under review, Lord Ebury would still not be the man to head it; and we hope that, for the future, he will keep more nearly within the range of his strength. An aristocratic saint is a pretty object to contemplate; so is a goldfish; but, like a goldfish, the noble Lord will find a small sphere quite sufficient for his energies.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY GAVE A CONCERT on Wednesday evening, at which Mdlle. Titiens, Mesdames Miolan and Csillag, Mdlle. Jenny Meyer, Signors Giuglini, Gardoni, Zelger, Belletti, and Santley, assisted.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY will leave Buckingham Palace on the 20th or 21st inst. for Osborne.

THE PRINCE CONSORT, accompanied by the young Prince Arthur, inspected the gun-factories and stores at Woolwich a few days since.

THE TRIP OF QUEEN VICTORIA TO BERLIN (says a letter from that city) has been postponed to the end of August or the beginning of September. The happy event in the family of Prince Frederick William is expected to take place towards the end of July.

A FINE PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN, the gift of her Majesty to the Parliament of Victoria, has recently been received in Melbourne from England. An address of thanks to her Majesty from both Houses of the Legislature has been passed in recognition of the gift.

A NEW WORK from the pen of Mr. George Borrow, author of "La Vengro," is announced under the title, "The Sleeping Bard; or, Visions of the World, Death, and Hell, translated from the Cambrian British of Elis Wyn."

THE SUEZ CANAL has had its usual ill luck by the total loss, off Corsica, of the *Jason*, freighted from Marseilles with machinery, tools, and workmen.

THE FIRST STATE BALL OF THE SEASON will be given on Wednesday, the 16th inst., at Buckingham Palace.

MR. HENRY WATSON, tax-collector at Ipswich, is a defaulter to the amount of £1000, his defaultations extending over a series of years. He has been apprehended.

MR. STRAIGHT, Clerk of Arraignment at the Central Criminal Court, London, committed suicide, last week, by hanging himself in his bedroom.

THE WINNER OF THE FIRST PRIZE OF 200,000*l.* (£20,000) in the last drawing of the Austrian Credit Bank Lottery was a cook on board a Lloyd's steamer.

A CONTRACTOR on the Fortmarn and Buchan Railway has employed women as navvies.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has refused to license the Rev. Thomas Dove Dove, M.A., to the curacy of St. George's-in-the-East, to which he was nominated by the Rev. Bryan King. Mr. Dove was for some time Curate to the Rev. W. J. E. Bennet, M.A., Vicar of Frome, and joined Mr. King about three months since.

THE GUARANTEE FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862 is in a fair way of completion. The amount now reaches £207,000.

AT THE RECENT STEEPLECHASE RACES OF ATHLONE the "Arab Maid" cleared thirty-six feet over a stone wall.

MR. GAMBART has secured Mr. Millais' "Black Brunswickers" at £1000, and is also the purchaser, at £700, of the same artist's "Apple Blossom," which had remained unsold from last year's Academy exhibition.

A MONUMENT IN HONOUR of the Indian hero Havelock will be publicly inaugurated at Sunderland early in the autumn. His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief will be invited on the occasion, and hopes are entertained that Lord Clyde will also be present.

THREE THOUSAND POUNDS have been collected, chiefly from men of letters and their friends, in aid of the memorial church of George Herbert, the poet, at Bemerton. About £1000 are still needed to complete the work.

A PETITION TO THE EMPEROR, praying that the title of Count de Nice may be conferred on the Imperial Prince, is being signed in all towns and villages of the county of Nice; the ladies of the city are signing a similar petition to the Empress.

THE HALLAM SUBSCRIPTION has reached £1000. The time has therefore come when the form of memorial may be considered.

THERE IS A REPORT that Government intends to adopt Capt. Fowke's plan for altering the National Gallery in Trafalgar-square, first published in the *Cornhill Magazine*.

THE PREMISES of the Patent Ullmate Ammonia and Chemical Working Company, at Grays, in Essex, suffered terribly in a conflagration on Sunday morning.

A DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE will be given on Tuesday next at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, the profits of which will be devoted to the erection of a simple monument in Highgate Cemetery where the mortal remains of Mrs. Warner now repose.

THE AUTHORITIES IN COMMAND at CHATHAM have decided on placing several hundred of the troops at that garrison under canvas during the present summer, the experience of former years having shown that the men encamped are far more healthy, and the percentage of sick much less, than when the troops are living and sleeping in their crowded barracks.

THE REPAVING of the carriage-way of Fleet-street with new Aberdeen granite cubes three inches wide was completed on Monday. The immense traffic had worn the old stone, which, when laid down in 1846, was nine inches in depth, to four inches and a half.

THE LINE-OF-BATTLE SAILING-SHIP *Powerful*, 84, was put out of dock at Chatham on Tuesday afternoon, her timbers having been found to be so very rotten, and the vessel altogether so unserviceable, that it was not considered expedient to have her converted into a screw steam-ship.

THE REV. JAMES BONWELL, of St. Philip's, Stepney, has re-entered upon the ministerial duties of his parish, so as to oblige his Bishop to proceed with the charge against him or to abandon it.

A GENERAL MEETING of the National Rifle Association was to have been held on Tuesday, under the presidency of Mr. Sidney Herbert. This gentleman, however, was detained at a Cabinet Council, and the meeting was adjourned.

A RATE-COLLECTOR at Paddington, one That her, is a defaulter to the amount of above £1500.

TWO GALLANT SOLDIERS have just died, within a few days of each other. Sir Willoughby Cotton, had served upwards of sixty years, and was present at some of the hottest conflicts in the Peninsula, and in India. The other, Major-General Berkeley Drummond, had served for fifty years in the Scots Fusilier Regiment, and fought at Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

MR. EDWARD HUGGINS, of Brent Lodge, Finchley, has been appointed a Deputy-Lieutenant of Middlesex. Mr. Huggins has also been appointed to the deputy-lieutenancy of the Tower Hamlets.

MR. B. C. STEPHENSON, of the Treasury, has been appointed private secretary to the Home Secretary, Sir G. C. Lewis, in the room of Mr. Maurice Drummond, appointed Receiver of the Metropolitan Police.

AN OLD WOMAN NAMED HUMPHRIES, of Frome, was visited by Mary Gibbons, a neighbour, equally aged (seventy-eight). As Mrs. Humphries was taking her snuffbox from the mantelpiece her clothes became ignited. Her friend endeavoured to quench the flames; her dress caught fire, and the result was that the poor old creatures were both burned to death.

THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY notify that they intend dispatching the *Great Eastern* from Southampton, for New York, on the 9th of June. Only 300 first-class passengers will be taken. The charge for a return-ticket is £10.

THE "EURYALUS"—which ship Prince Alfred has rejoined—left Spithead for the Cape of Good Hope on Saturday; but, in consequence of some derangement of her machinery, had to put back next morning.

MR. EDWARD WHITTY, long one of the best-known journalists in Great Britain, died at Melbourne lately.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF BOLOGNA is said by the *Corriere Mercantile* to have written a letter to the King of Sardinia couched in most improper language.

M. AUGUSTE MARIETTE, an eminent French archaeologist, writes from Egypt that he has discovered the remains of a large palace in granite in the immediate vicinity of the Sphinx. He takes this palace to be that of Chephren, who built the great pyramid. No less than seven statues of this Prince have been found in the palace.

THE DEATH OF SIR JOHN MELVILLE, at Edinburgh, is announced. Sir John became Lord Provost in 1831, and continued in office till last year, when he received the honour of knighthood.

JOSEPH STEPHENSON, a pitman of Greysouthen, who died recently, in the 80th year of his age, could count in children—sons and daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren—123 descendants, all resident in the villages of Greysouthen and Little Clifton. Fifty years ago, when this man came as a stranger to Greysouthen, the name of Stephenson was not known in that neighbourhood.

THE ANNUAL CEREMONY of the admission to degrees, and the presentation of scholarships and prizes, took place at the University of London on Wednesday. Lord Granville delivered an address, and the proceedings were of a very satisfactory character.

THE COMMISSION which is sitting in France on the National Defences is paying particular attention to the question of fortifying the embouchures of the French rivers.

CAPTAIN DE RUSSEL, of the French Navy, is reported to have signed at Gondar, with the King of Abyssinia, a treaty of commerce and friendship very advantageous for France.

THE TOTAL SUM SPENT AT THE ENFIELD RIFLE FACTORY between the 1st of April, 1859, and the 31st of March, 1860, was £215,577. The number of complete rifles turned out during the same time, 87,105.

SIR H. BARNLY, K.C.B., Governor of the colony of Victoria, is expected home on leave of absence on private affairs.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday that the Russian Government, in reply to a despatch on the subject, have made answer that they have every desire to respect the graves of the dead at Sebastopol, and that they will give orders on the subject.

THE BELGIAN JOURNALS state that the fortifications of Antwerp are advancing but slowly, owing to many cases of fever among the workmen. It is also said that the wages paid are insufficient to induce the best to remain. This state of things causes great dissatisfaction among the townspeople.

THE CIVIL COMPANIONSHIP OF THE BATH has been conferred upon Mr. Esmine May, of the House of Commons, in recognition of his public services.

THE REPORT of two French men-of-war having been sunk by the fire of the *Leho* forts is declared by the Paris journals to be devoid of foundation.

THE REMOVAL of another commercial treaty between England and France, referring to the abolition of the French differential duties on shipping, seems to have spread consternation among the shipowners of Marseilles, who have drawn up a petition against it.

LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Conservative blockade is removed, and the business of the Session is to be allowed to pursue its natural course for a time. Some of the Conservative members were anxious to continue the blockade, but the leaders of the party had become ashamed of the obstructive policy, and resolutely determined to put an end to it. It will, however, be renewed. I have no doubt, when the Reform Bill again makes its appearance. This bill is set down to go into Committee on the 4th of June, but it is hardly conceivable that it can pass this Session. There will, of course, be another long debate on the question that "the Speaker do leave the chair;" and, considering that we have now entered fir into May, that scarcely any of the supplies have been granted, and that there are other important bills demanding the attention of the House, I do not see how it will be possible, under the most favourable circumstances, to dispose of the Reform Bill until about the middle of July. It must then go to the Lords, to run the gauntlet there; afterwards come back to the House, that their Lordships' amendments (for, of course, they will make some) may be considered, and then return to the Lords to be finally stamped with the imprimatur of the Upper House. No; I fancy we must consider the Reform question as all but disposed of this Session. Not a few of our political knowing ones, indeed, declare that this is already settled. The Government, they say, has redeemed its pledge, but, seeing how generally opposed the House is to the measure, it will make some further show of fight and then withdraw the bill. But, supposing that the Government persist in forcing on the bill, will the House pass it? In the above calculation I have assumed that it will; this, however, is very questionable. Indeed, after carefully taking stock of the House, I have come to the conclusion that in all probability it will not. At present we have had no division on the bill; but there must be one, not only on the clauses in Committee, for on them we may expect innumerable divisions, but on the bill as a whole; and when that division takes place, which will probably be on going into Committee, how is the Government to get a majority? The Conservatives will vote against the bill to a man; and, considering that the Liberal party is not stronger than the Conservative by more than twenty votes, that a considerable number of Liberals will certainly vote with the Opposition, and that probably not a few will take the middle course of absence, I cannot see how, in a stand-up fight, the Government can hope for a victory. There is a rumour abroad that in Committee, if the bill should get to that stage, an amendment will be proposed to change the borough qualifications to £28, and the county to £20, that the Government will accept the amendment, and that the bill will then pass without further opposition. This report of a compromise was alluded to by Mr. Horsman in his speech the other night when he and Mr. Walter were settling their quarrels. Mr. Horsman heard the rumour from Colonel French, and it has been floating about the House and the clubs ever since; but I do not believe that it rests on any foundation. "The wish was father to the thought," I apprehend. Some one suggested that this would be the best way to settle the question; and, by a well-known common process, the suggestion

soon crystallised into an assertion that the compromise had been really made. But you may rely upon it that no compromise has been made yet. Nor can I think that such a compromise as this will be made. I cannot imagine that Lord John will consent that his mountain should bring forth such a ridiculous mouse. Better wait several years more than come to such a lame and impotent conclusion. You will probably be surprised at the smallness of the majority on the third reading of the Paper Duty Bill, but I am not. You will remember that I warned your readers that the opponents of this measure were straining every nerve to defeat it. Nor was the Government surprised. Indeed, the Whigs, when the division was called, hardly knew whether they should have a majority at all. The bill ought to be safe now, as the Lords seldom reject a money bill; but, after the unprecedented conduct of the Opposition in attempting to defeat a finance measure on the third reading, I know not what to say. Mr. Disraeli's speech was the worst that I ever heard from him. It was loose, inconsequential, and full of false assertions; and, though he was in one of his most furious moods, I never heard him stumble and hesitate as he did on Tuesday night. The fact is, he was speaking against his conviction. He feels that he has lately lost ground with his party, and he attempted to retrieve it by resorting to his old dashing, slashing style of speaking. The attempt was, however, a miserable failure.

The treasurer of the Sages Fund reports that he has received from the Lords and Commons 300 sovereigns subscribed by three hundred Lords and members of Parliament.

To the genial fancy of an artist employed by *Punch* (whose writers, by-the-way, have all spoken in a very kindly manner of the movement) the gentlemen belonging to the volunteer service are indebted for an amount of blackguarding and ribaldry which, by those who have not heard it, would scarcely be credited. To the sportive mind of this gentleman it occurred to depict a volunteer crossing a road and flinching from the deep sarcasm of an urchin who inquires of him "Who shot the dog?" Within a week after the appearance of the cartoon the appreciative boys of the streets began to understand the playful satire, and now no opportunity is lost of hurling this chaff at the heads of all individuals in uniform whose quiet appearance or sufficient distance renders the chance of their taking notice of the in-jolt problematical. Were this abuse confined to the little boys it would be too contemptible; but blackguards of a larger growth, the scum and refuse of the courts and alleys, idle, loafing vagabonds, thieves out of work, and the whole horde of lads between sixteen and five-and-twenty, "aggerwater-curl" wearers, with greasy caps and check neckerchiefs, who are always the determined opponents of everything orderly and decent, take up the cry, and, adding to it choice adjectives from their own vocabulary, follow at a safe distance and howl out their obscenities. Wonder has been expressed that the volunteer movement has not been more general among the trading and working classes; but all the representatives of these classes that I have noticed have certainly shown their antipathy to it, either by actually joining in the insult or passively standing by and grinning an approval in that helpless state of nonentity in which the British workmen, when not at work or drunk, is usually to be found. I have on more than one occasion seen volunteer corps followed by a dense mob with yells of execration; and the behaviour of the roughs at the inspection of the London Brigade on Saturday last was as blackguard and insulting as can be conceived. Hitherto the volunteers have behaved with singular good temper; but it is time that some serious measures should be taken, not for their protection, for they are mostly young men in the prime of life and tolerably accustomed to athletic exercises, and I should not be at all afraid of the result of a collision between them and the mob. It is the collision that is to be dreaded. Good humour will not last for ever; it is of fragile texture in most of us, and a specially stinging insult might produce a blow, the blow lead to a shower of stones, and that to a general mêlée, which would be most unfortunate. It is difficult to suggest a remedy for this state of things; but one would imagine that the respectable passers-by might discourage the system of insult, and the police might be instructed to check as far as possible the exuberant blackguardism of the boys.

By the way, what is the meaning of a paragraph which has been the round of the papers to the effect that "Mr. Ruskin's pamphlet on the Exhibition of the Academy will this year be written by Mr. Thornbury"? Surely it would not be more preposterous to announce that Mr. Tennyson's next poem will be written by Mr. Tupper. — Mr. Mason Jones has been "orating" on Lord Macaulay at Willis's Rooms. He has very little new to tell us; and it is painful to hear quotations from "Virginia" and "Ivy" delivered in a thick brogue that you might cut with a knife.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. C. Falconer's new comedy, "The Family Secret," at the Haymarket, does him but little credit. It is dreadfully prosy and long-winded, and has no novelty in either plot or character.

DINNER AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE usual inaugural dinner took place on Saturday evening in the east room of the Royal Academy. Lord Palmerston, the Duke of Somerset, Earl De Grey and Ripon, Lord J. Russell, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Sir Charles Wood, Mr. Milner Gibson, the Earl of Derby, Mr. Disraeli, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Stanley, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Oxford, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Grey, the Earl of Clarendon, Sir J. Lawrence, Lieut-Colonel Edwards, Professor Owen, Professor Faraday, Mr. George Grote, and Mr. J. Forster were among the guests; and the president, Sir Charles Eastlake, occupied the chair.

The formal toasts having been honoured as usual, the President proposed the health of the guests. Viscount Palmerston was received with great cordiality. He said—

I am convinced that there is not one among those whom the Royal Academy is in the habit of honouring with invitations of their anniversary meetings who does not look forward to that day as one of the brightest in the whole course of the year. You meet assembled here politicians forgetful of antagonism, men of professions free from their cares, men of literature unmindful of their anxieties, men of science, who for a time do not think of their labours—all who enter your doors deposit upon your threshold every troubling thought of that outer world, and meet here only for a common purpose, to appreciate and admire—and, undoubtedly, I am convinced that when I say that I believe there never was an occasion on which those assembled within your walls had greater reason to appreciate and to admire. The display of talent which we see adorning your walls does the highest possible credit to the state of the arts in this country. This country, indeed, is making most wonderful progress in everything that constitutes national greatness and prosperity; and wonderful it would be if the arts did not keep pace with that progress, and did not show that the intellect of this country is equal to any exertion which may be made by any of the other classes and interests of the nation. There is nothing more ennobling than the cultivation of art. Nations have been great in war, although they were to a certain extent deserving of the epithet of barbarians; but a nation to be really great must not only excel in its strength, wealth, and prosperity, but must excel also, as I am proud to say this country does, in the development of its intellectual powers. It has been said of another branch of intellect—namely, that which delights us in theatrical representations—it has been said, I think unjustly, that

"The drama's patrons give the drama laws."

The drama has more power than that line would imply it to possess; but the reverse undoubtedly may be said of the departments of art. The artist not only creates, but improves, and directs, and guides the taste of the patrons of art; and the power of the artist survives even the duration of his life, because, as is said, the genius is cold, the record continues to remain a standard of taste, and to guide and direct the judgment of mankind for ages after the decease of the artist himself. I trust that the progress we have the satisfaction of seeing may continue. We may think, perhaps, when we see the perfection to which the artists of the day have arrived, that there is not much left for their successors to do; but if we only hope that the encouragement which is given by public taste to artists will maintain art in the degree of perfection to which it has already arrived we shall have

ample reason to be satisfied. I trust I may be allowed, Sir Charles, by the authority of those whom you have honoured, to request that you will permit me to drink "Prosperity to the Royal Academy."

The President, in the course of the speech in which he proposed the health of her Majesty's Ministers, said:—

I must do the members of the Royal Academy the justice to say that some of their own works have been this year withdrawn to make room for others, and it is satisfactory, amid the disappointments which under the circumstances are unavoidable, to see works by contributors occupying those prominent places which by a fair and acknowledged privilege are usually assigned to numbers. From the experience of the present exhibition alone it is plain that the additional space which the Academy so much wants would be a boon to the contributors, and it is on this account the more earnestly desired. The members of the Royal Academy are sincerely anxious to render this institution as useful as possible in conformity with the objects of its foundation. They, too, are prepared to set their house in order; but before they can do so it is essential that they should know without a figure where and what their house is to be. Under any circumstances they are deeply sensible of the consideration they have received from the present and from the late Government, and knowing how many important concerns must take precedence of any questions connected with the fine arts—above all, knowing that there is every disposition to do justice to their claims—they wait the result without impatience.

Lord J. Russell replied to this toast.

I do not rise, Sir Charles, to thank you for the toast of her Majesty's Ministers. I rise rather to protest against it. I think that in these meetings of the Royal Academy it is very difficult to speak of the merits of her Majesty's Ministers without raising a political debate, and putting you in the situation of the Speaker of the House of Commons. Now, if I were to dilate on the devotion and patriotism which her Majesty's Ministers have shown in accepting office, on the unerring wisdom which all their measures show, and the universal popularity which has attended them, I am afraid, instead of meeting the assent of all who are present, I should, as I have said, raise a discussion, and have to contend with Mr. Disraeli or some other gentleman, to prove the assertions I have made. Therefore, I really think that this toast of her Majesty's Ministers is not one that ought to be given. At the same time, I am very grateful to you for the honour you have done us, although I must not say much about it. I would rather, if I could, speak of the merits of the pictures we see on those walls. That is a topic at least on which we should all agree. And in connection with the merits of these pictures I may say that you, Sir Charles, have supplied me with an argument for which I am exceedingly grateful; because you have said that the cultivation of art and the exhibition of works in the highest style of art, and executed with great skill, tend to elevate the taste and improve the minds of the lower orders. I trust, therefore, that by means of a great many exhibitions of these and other works of art these orders may be permitted to exercise the elective franchise. Certainly I did not expect to hear a new argument in favour of lowering the franchise, but as you have given me the benefit of that argument I return you my grateful thanks for it.

With the toast "The Interests of Literature," which was given a little later in the evening, was coupled the name of Mr. Motley, author of "The Rise of the Dutch Republic."

Mr. Motley thanked the assembly very gracefully for the honour they had done him.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—The proceedings in the parish church of St. George-in-the-East on Sunday last do not justify the hope that the outrages which have so long prevailed there will speedily be brought to a close. The interruptions during the morning were much greater than usual; and as soon as the doors were opened for the evening service a mass of persons rushed into the church, making the most discordant noises. Two of the panels in the front row of pews in the south gallery were kicked out. Close behind the reading-desk is a large square pew; here a disturbance arose, and the pew door was torn away. In the course of the evening a fight took place in the churchyard in reference to some keys. As soon as the priests and choristers emerged from the vestry at seven o'clock there was an indescribable scene of disorder. People jumped on to the seats and howled and stamped their loudest. The organist played with all his power, but the noise made by the rioters completely drowned the music. The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. Benson, M.A., Incumbent of Cowley, near Oxford. His appearance in the pulpit was the signal for renewed uproar, and every few minutes during his sermon he was assailed with groans, hisses, and shouts of "Go home!" A large number of clergymen belonging to the High Church party have offered to assist Mr. King in the services in consequence of the Bishop of London's refusal to license his Curate, Mr. Dove.

DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUITIES.—Some interesting discoveries have been made where excavations are in progress at the City of London Gas Company's Works, Whitefriars, for the purpose of erecting a new gasholder. The workmen have, at a depth of from fourteen to sixteen feet, found relics from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries inclusive, consisting of spurs with ornamental rowels, keys, knives, ancient spoons, scissors, some curious pointed shoes of the reign of Edward III. and Richard III., and saddle trappings, in excellent preservation; a lady's gold finger-ring, set with a ruby; silver coins of Richard III., a sixpence of Elizabeth, some Nuremberg or Jetton tokens, a few fragments of ancient pottery; a piece of Roman, with letters "N. A. M. I. L. C. R." at the bottom; also a quantity of brass pins, needles, and wire.

ACCIDENT AT THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—"Dinorah" was performed at this theatre on Saturday evening by command of her Majesty, who honoured the performance with her presence. The opera was going well, when, in the scene where the shadow song occurs, a tremendous explosion was heard, arising from the bursting of one of the instruments by which the artificial moonlight is produced. The son of the manager of the light was so severely injured that his removal to Charing-cross Hospital was considered necessary. Her Majesty sent twice to inquire after the sufferer. The lad, we believe, is not irretrievably hurt.

THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME.

THE English invented, years since, a theory that there was no place like home, and that for genuine appreciation of home and its delights there was no country like England. Indeed, we have a popular song on the subject—"Home, sweet home"—which often passes for being national, but of which the words were written by an American (Mr. Howard Payne), adapted to a Swiss air, and introduced into a piece called "Clari," which was, more or less, a translation from the French. We fancy there must be a good deal of domestic life in France, though doubtless less in Paris, which is full of out-of-door attractions, than in the French provinces; and the Germans are as proud of their love of home, and certainly think quite as much of their parents, as the English, or any nation in Europe. Herr Adolph Tidemand, in a picture from which we this day publish an engraving, shows us a German interior, with a venerable couple seated in the middle, and thinking evidently of something or some one very dear to their hearts. The one thing wanting in their home is, doubtless, some son who is away with the army fighting against Napoleon, if the figures in the picture belong, as they appear to do, to the early part of the century; or who, if the story be one of the present day, has torn himself away from his family to try his fortune with so many other Germans in America. The title of Herr Tidemann's picture seems to imply that the thoughts of some absent child are turned towards his parents at home, and it is evident from the work itself that of him they also are thinking.

"THE RISING TIDE."

THE Goodall family is one of the most thoroughly artistic families in England, and it has the advantage of being represented not merely in one department of art in which all the members follow the same family method, but in oil-painting, in water-colour painting, and in engraving. The catalogue of the Old Water-colour Society contains the names of Walter Goodall, who contributes the "Farmhouse Porch," the "Dutch Shrimpers," "On the Dutch Coast," and "The Rising Tide," which we this day engrave, and of Edward A. Goodall, who sends a Venetian scene, entitled "The Approach of Night." Every one in England who interests himself in art knows Edward Goodall, the excellent engraver of the views in Turner's "South Coast" and of "Cologre," "Tivoli," and so many other admirable works by the same painter. Then, at the present Exhibition of the Royal Academy, few pictures are more remarked than the "Early Morning in the Wilderness of Shur," a magnificent Eastern scene by Frederick Goodall, who had never before been to the East for his inspiration, and who had gained his well-earned reputation by such works as "The Tired Soldier," "The Village Festival," "The Gipsy Encampment," "The Soldier's Dream," "Raising the Maypole," &c. Of Walter Goodall's "Rising Tide" we say

nothing, because (minus, of course, its effective colouring) it speaks for itself in our engraving. Otherwise, in treating of the Goodalls generally, we should certainly have said something specially of Walter Goodall. He must—to advert to what we commenced with—have had the advantage of beginning his artistic education very young; and this is really an advantage which can scarcely be over-estimated, and which explains to some extent how, in so many instances, the sons of successful artists have themselves attained success—which in other professions, be it remembered, is by no means the rule. Thus Horace Vernet drew and painted as a child in the studio of his father Karl Vernet; and Karl Vernet, we may be sure, was not allowed to remain idle in his early days in the atelier of old Joseph Vernet, the celebrated painter of the "Harbours of France." If, as a celebrated and now unpleasantly trite maxim teaches, life is almost too short for art, it must be well for a student to commence his artistic life at the earliest possible age.

MR. T. CRESWICK, R.A.

WE publish this week a Portrait of Mr. Thomas Creswick, Royal Academician, and, which is more important, one of the best landscape-painters the English school has produced. This artist was born at Sheffield, Yorkshire, in the year 1811, so that the manufacturing districts of England, which are reproached, often unjustly, with buying, but not truly appreciating, works of art, and, above all, with producing no artists, may claim, at all events, the honour of having given birth to one celebrated painter of the day. Indeed, on reflection, and on reference, we find that, whatever Lancashire may have done, the industrial cities of Yorkshire have contributed their full share of artistic talent, for both Sheffield and Leeds have produced an Academician; the former city, as we have mentioned, having been the birthplace of Mr. Creswick—the latter that of Mr. Cope. With the exception of Middlesex, whose well-known chief town has for centuries been the nest of genius of all kinds, what other county can boast of having given as much to the country in the way of art?—how many of even half as much? For in England we have only forty counties, and Great Britain altogether has but forty Royal Academicians.

To the credit of manufacturing England it may be further mentioned that the youthful Creswick commenced the study of art in Birmingham. His preceptor was Mr. J. W. Barber, and he soon began to make progress in landscape-painting, a branch to which he appears to have devoted himself from the first.

Thomas Creswick was only sixteen years of age when he exhibited his first picture. This was at the Birmingham Exhibition of 1827, where the work of the young artist was so much admired that he was induced the following year to try his success at London, and accordingly sent a landscape, "Llyn Gwynant, North Wales," and a sea-piece, "Storm Coming On—Boats off Carnarvon Castle," to the Royal Academy. Both productions were accepted, but, in all probability, were not hung very conspicuously, as we find that for many years after Mr.

Creswick's first appearance in London he sent his most important works to the British Institution, which, as every one knows, was founded by artists who considered themselves to have been unfairly treated by the Academy. Mr. Creswick, however, while exhibiting at

Suffolk-street, did not forsake the Academy altogether; indeed, he has been represented on the walls of its spacious gallery almost every year since 1828. There may have been some exceptions, but very few.

In 1832 Mr. Creswick, then only just of age, but possessing already considerable reputation, removed from Birmingham to London, when, besides sending paintings to the annual exhibitions of the Royal Academy and the British Institution, he occupied himself with the illustration of books, and undertook the production of several series of views, of which his "Views in Ireland" are, perhaps, the most generally known. In 1837 and 1838 he contributed largely to "The Picturesque Annual," which owed much of its success to his charming designs.

Mr. Creswick was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1842, and a Royal Academician in 1851. With regard to his special talent and his choice of subjects we need scarcely remind the reader that he excels in landscapes and in marine painting, and that he has exhibited views in North Wales (and on the Welsh coast), in Ireland, in Derbyshire, and by the Wye. An appreciative biographer in "Men of the Time" says of Mr. Creswick that he has "united the perfection of aerial perspective in his distances with precision in the foregrounds. He seems to take a secret pleasure in unraveling the mysteries of intricate groves as they overarch the trout stream, of which he renders the evanescent form and colour with the hand of one who has spent many long summers of careful thought and observation amidst such scenes. The beholder has a perfect confidence in the painter, whose happy gift it is to receive and translate nature with an admirable fidelity and truthfulness. Surely landscape-painters ought to be amongst the happiest people in the world. As we look at these charming works of Mr. Creswick we fancy the painter happy in his serene occupation amidst such beautiful scenery, tracing the course of the river, the forms of rocks, and the play of the sunshine amidst the leaves."

One of Mr. Creswick's latest commissions—from Messrs. Grundy, of Manchester—was to paint a series of pictures from the scenery of North Wales, with a view to their reproduction in lithography: this was intended as a companion series to the "Lake Scenery" executed by Mr. J. B. Pyne for the same publishers. Mr. Creswick was one of the artists intrusted with the task of arranging the Gallery of Modern Paintings at the Manchester Exhibition of 1857; and visitors to the Academy Exhibition of the present year will scarcely need to be informed that he has contributed to it two admirable landscapes—"A Relic of Old Times" and "A Roughish Road." Of these the most remarkable is the former. It represents a castle in ruins, by the side of a stream in whose surface its ancient and battered walls are reflected. The sky is full of light, which—intercepted by the castle—falls in all its brightness upon the water further up the stream, where it is crossed by a picturesque bridge. On the whole, this "Relic of Old Times" is the most interesting, and in many respects one of the best, pictures that Mr. Creswick has produced for years past.



THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—(FROM THE PICTURE BY ADOLPHE TIDEMAND.)



THE RISING TIDE.—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY W. GOODALL, IN THE OLD WATER-COLOUR GALLERY.)

NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE present exhibition of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours is a very interesting one. We fancy most of the visitors are agreed as to the general merit of the collection; but some of our contemporaries have called attention to what they consider a falling off in the character of the works exhibited. There are fewer historical pictures than usual—indeed, so few that but for Mr. Louis Haghe's "Murder of Riccio" their presence in the gallery might be altogether ignored. But this we are not all inclined to look upon as a disadvantage. We do not attach so much importance to the nature of an artistic vehicle as to believe that great things cannot be painted in water colours as well as in oil. To entertain such a proposition seriously appears to us as absurd as to inquire whether it is possible to write equally magnificent poetry in blank verse and in rhyme. In the hands of the poet all metres are available for almost all purposes, the one thing needful being that he should possess the true poetic spirit; and, similarly, an artist who has conceived a grand design, and who has the power to execute it at all, can do so through almost any medium, his choice in that respect being usually dependent on his own particular skill. There is nothing in the nature of the colours employed or the process pursued that renders it impossible we should have a Raphael, or a Poussin, or a Delaroche in water colours; but the simple fact is that hitherto our water-colour painters, resembling in that respect our painters in oil, have never cultivated high art with success. Artists in water colours say, and with apparent reason, that there is no style of pictorial art which may not be treated in water colour at least as successfully as in oil. It is quite certain that there are subjects which require the nicest delicacy of execution, and which involve effects (as, for instance, of transparency) attainable only through the former medium; and therefore, without attempting to fix a limit beyond which water-colour painters should not go, we may fairly say that there are particular styles which they may cultivate with special advantage, but amongst those we should not place the historical.

If there be a style for painters in oil and a style for painters in water colour, Mr. Louis Haghe certainly affects the former, in spite of the materials he employs; but he produces admirable pictures, and it may be said of him that he has extended what was once supposed to be the natural domain of water-colour painting. Indeed, at the Paris Universal Exhibition of Fine Arts (1855) the French, who by no means excel in the "aquarelle," were amazed at the "solidity" of his execution, and paid him what, coming from them, was a great compliment, by saying that his water-colour painting was as good as the best painting in oil.

One of the first works that will arrest the visitor's attention on entering the gallery is "An Improvisatore in the Ruins of the Forum at Rome" by the artist we have just mentioned. The improvisatore is standing on a fragment of stone in the midst of a picturesque group of peasantry, who are listening with evident interest and enjoyment to his tale. The magnificent columns stand out effectively against the glowing evening sky, and in the distance, contrasting strongly with the huge, antique remains in the foreground, are seen the unpretending little dwellings of the modern Romans. The colouring of this picture is very fine, and (as it appears to us) quite natural. We need scarcely add that the architecture, as in all Mr. Haghe's works of the same kind, is admirably rendered. Mr. Haghe's "Drinking-fountain at Albano" is another example of his best and, decidedly, his most pleasing style, for, by this time, the public must be rather tired of Mr. Haghe's eternally-repeated interiors of churches and cathedrals, however skilfully they may be executed. In the "Drinking-fountain at Albano" an interesting object in itself, and therefore very different from the drinking-fountains that we are familiar with in England, every one will notice the excellent grouping of the gossiping water-drinkers round this centre of attraction.

Mr. Haghe further exhibits "The Ghetto, or Jew's Quarter, at Rome," which, with its idlers straggling about the place, and its contrast of shadow and sunlight, recalls to some extent the treatment of the "Improvisatore in the Ruins of the Forum;" two richly-painted Venetian interiors; and "The Murder of Riccio." The first of the Venetian pictures shows us the gorgeously-decorated "Room of Ambassadors in the Ducal Palace." In the second the celebrated "Lion's Mouth" is seen, into which complaints submitted to the Council of Ten were thrust. The Ten are introduced, and one of the number has just taken out a letter of accusation. "The Murder of Riccio" is the most ambitious of Mr. Haghe's works in the present exhibition, and, if not his best production, is at all events the most successful historical or dramatic painting in the gallery. The group of assassins, and the unfortunate musician, who is falling beneath their blows, form the most prominent portion of the picture. The scene is for the most part in darkness, the only light being derived from a lamp, which appears to

be held by one of the assassins, and the rays from which are in a great measure intercepted by his figure.

Among the contributors to this year's Exhibition of the New Water-colour Society a very high rank must be assigned to Mr. Carl Werner, a new member. Mr. Werner, however, was already known to the London public from the pictures exhibited by him last year in his studio in Pall-mall. He is, we believe, a native of Munich and an intimate friend of the most popular of living German poets, Emil Geibel, whose poem of "The Young Nun" has furnished him with a subject for a picture which, however, is by no means the most favourable specimen of his talent to be seen in the New Water-colour Gallery. Here are the lines which Mr. Werner has undertaken to illustrate:—

Ach Gott! was hat mein vater und meine mutter gedacht
Dass sie mich zu den nonnen in das kloster gebracht;
Nun darf ich nimmer lachen, und muss im schleier gehn
Und darf kein liebend herze mein herze verstehn, &c.
(O God! what were my father and my mother thinking of
To bring me to the nuns in the cloister?
Now never must I laugh, and I must go about in a veil,
And never shall a loving heart my own heart understand!)

In representing such a subject as a young girl taking the veil against her will it is evident that the figure of the girl should form the chief

elaborative geniuses, give any undue prominence. His choice of subjects is comparatively extensive, when we remember that in all his works he depends more or less upon his success in representing architecture. Thus the simple old parish church at Eckenförde, in Holstein, with its quaintness and its Protestant severity, is in marked contrast to the magnificent, richly-beautiful "Interior of the Cathedral of Cefalu, in Sicily." "The Hall of the Emperors at Goslar"—the walls of which are covered by the portraits of the old Saxon Emperors, painted by Wohlgemuth, the master of Albert Dürer—is a marvel of exact reproduction. In "Venice as It Was"—Patrician Family going out in a Gondola, we see the splendour of mediæval Venice; in "Venice as It Is," the unhappy Venice of the present day, symbolised in a deserted palace, with straggling poultry beneath the porch, and with a dark canal running at its foot.

Mr. Henry Warren, the President of the Society, does not appear to have done his best this year. Of his two large and most ambitious pictures one is entitled "The Good Samaritan," and represents a rocky landscape of considerable extent, in which are two small figures—those of a "certain man who fell among thieves," and of the good Samaritan. The other is called "The Bower of Roses," and shows us a voluptuous Oriental beauty, sitting "by Bendemeer's Stream," covered with a rich shawl, and surrounded by flowers. In "Toll Demanded," the best of Mr. H. Warren's minor works, we see a young girl seated on a donkey and denied passage through a gate except conditionally and on payment of a kiss, to be received by a rude boy who officiates, on this occasion very willingly, as gatekeeper.

Mr. H. Tidey has contributed a remarkable, and in some respects an excellent, picture, called "Queen Mab," which might be described more exactly as "the body and the soul of Ianthe." After the descent of Queen Mab in her chariot, whose celestial coursers "paw the unyielding air," the fairy Queen calls on the soul of the slumbering Ianthe to "Awake, arise!" when

Sudden arose
Ianthe's soul!
Upon the couch the body lay,
Wrapt in the depth of slumber.

'Twas a sight
Of wonder to behold the body
and soul,
The self-same lineaments, the same
Marks of identity were there.

The room is filled with a misty half-light, through which the body of the sleeping girl is seen, and by its side the awaking soul in the body's exact form. By the side of Ianthe's couch is that "sleepless spirit" who

waits to catch
Light, life, and rapture from
her smile;

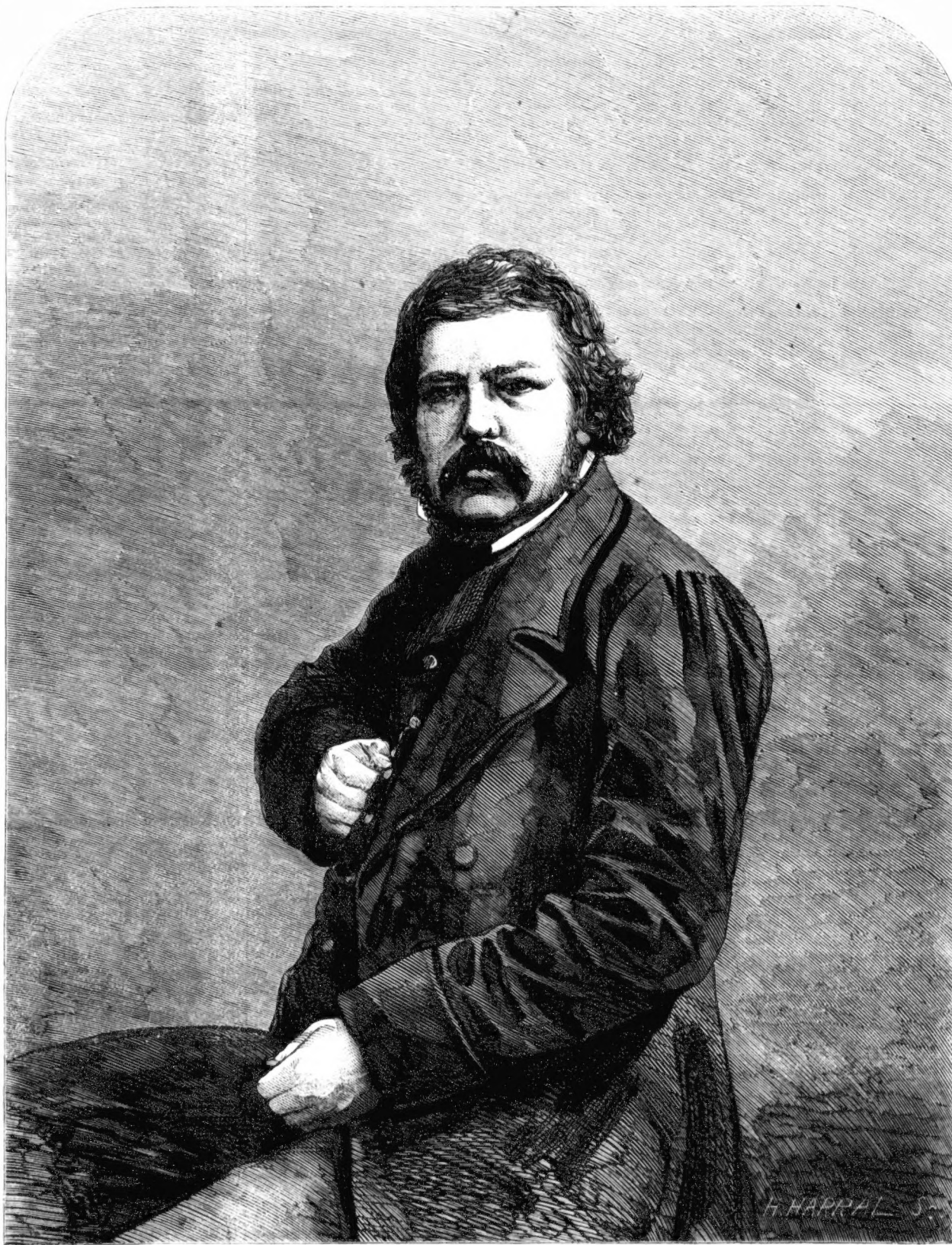
and in the figure of Ianthe the painter has not forgotten the "golden tresses" which shade

The bosom's stainless pride,
Curling like tendrils of the
parasite
Around a marble column.

But Mr. Tidey's picture is, on the whole, a clever—perhaps even a poetical—mistake. To seek to represent palpably to the eye such a scene as Shelley has imagined in the resurrection or liberation of Ianthe's soul is to attempt an impossibility; and in endeavouring to fix this poetic vision upon canvas Mr. Tidey has simply shown that the subject was one to which neither he nor, in all probability, any other artist could do justice.

Mr. Edward Corbould, in his "Witch of Endor," has produced a work which is as terrible as blue fire, human skulls, and mysterious writing on the wall can make it. But whatever witchcraft the witch of Endor may have used, in the absence of any precise information on the subject, it is as unwarrantable as it is unpoetical to represent her in the midst of such paraphernalia as only a stage witch at the Victoria Theatre would surround herself with.

Mr. E. G. Warren has sent a number of landscapes. All with an appreciation of the sentiment of a landscape, which is quite wanting in many of those photographic landscape-painters who are eternally praised for their fidelity to nature. Some of our artists, for instance, who, with far less talent, paint in the style of the late Mr. Seddon, produce landscapes which, to all but a certain small body of heretics, look like the plans of a house-agent elaborately finished. These are praised for their "reality"—that is to say, for their exact resemblance to nature, which the artist often endeavours not to imitate by any fair artistic process, but meanly and slavishly to counterfeit; and, to say the truth, they are about as much like the nature which inspires poets and all true artists as the anatomical figure of a human being is like a man. Mr. Edmund Warren loves the vernal, and therefore also the verdant—the latter, as its very etymology denotes, being intimately connected with the former. We are not sorry, for our part, that spring has its green trees, nor that Mr. Warren paints them so beautifully. But there are those who reproach this artist, in greengrocers' style, with "the freshness of his greens." This, by the way, to a greengrocer would be small matter of reproach, and we think we should esteem it as such in our own case if we were Mr. Warren. He has only one answer to make to those who tell him that his spring pictures are "too green;" that objection was made long ago



T. CREWICK, R.A.

portion, it not the whole, of the picture (as in the poem), and that utter despondency should be the first thing to strike us in her appearance. M. Carl Werner, however, simply paints, in his own magnificent style, the inside of a monastery near Rome, in which a young woman with a pale face, and as if exhausted, is seen sitting in an easy-chair; she is quite an accessory in the scene, like the priests and monks Mr. Haghe so frequently introduces for the sake of effect into his architectural interiors; nor is there anything in the attitude or physiognomy of the novice to show that the artist possesses to any considerable extent the power of depicting human emotion. In the other works exhibited by M. Werner, the subject in no case demands that poetic or dramatic faculty, in which we conceive him to be deficient; and in the representation of architecture, both as to the details and in the mass, he gives proof of the highest ability as a draughtsman and as a colourist. Indeed, it is not a little remarkable that in a department of art which is regarded, and with justice, as peculiarly English we should have among the members of the Old Water-colour Society Carl Haag, and among those of the New Society Carl Werner, each of whom must be ranked with the very first of our painters in water-colours. Mr. Werner's execution is broad, effective, rich in colour, and it is at the same time characterised by wonderful finish, and by a minute attention to details, to which, however, he does not, like too many of our

these are admirably painted; truthfully, but with an eye to beauty and with an appreciation of the sentiment of a landscape, which is quite wanting in many of those photographic landscape-painters who are eternally praised for their fidelity to nature. Some of our artists, for instance, who, with far less talent, paint in the style of the late Mr. Seddon, produce landscapes which, to all but a certain small body of heretics, look like the plans of a house-agent elaborately finished. These are praised for their "reality"—that is to say, for their exact resemblance to nature, which the artist often endeavours not to imitate by any fair artistic process, but meanly and slavishly to counterfeit; and, to say the truth, they are about as much like the nature which inspires poets and all true artists as the anatomical figure of a human being is like a man. Mr. Edmund Warren loves the vernal, and therefore also the verdant—the latter, as its very etymology denotes, being intimately connected with the former. We are not sorry, for our part, that spring has its green trees, nor that Mr. Warren paints them so beautifully. But there are those who reproach this artist, in greengrocers' style, with "the freshness of his greens." This, by the way, to a greengrocer would be small matter of reproach, and we think we should esteem it as such in our own case if we were Mr. Warren. He has only one answer to make to those who tell him that his spring pictures are "too green;" that objection was made long ago

by the fox in the fable to some very fine grapes. In summer, however, and least of all in autumn, trees are not green; and, when we find a painter introducing (as Mr. Warren does) green trees and yellow corn into the same composition, we confess we cannot help thinking of the painter in Jérôme Patator, whose landscapes, whatever the subject, always reminded the spectator of spinach and fresh butter.

Mr. McKean has no less than seventeen landscapes in this year's exhibition, the majority of which possess much merit. Mr. Rowbotham (whose "Lago Maggiore" seems to be particularly admired) is almost equally well represented. Mr. Bennett sent a fine "View from Heaven's Gate, Longleat, Wilts," where Bishop Ken composed the morning and evening hymns; and some dozen other landscapes. Mr. Chas. H. Weigall contributes a charmingly natural study of poultry, and several landscapes and figure pieces. One of Mr. Whympers' best pictures, this year, is his "Corn-fields near Haslemere," an agreeable scene, effectively represented. Mr. Mole, Mr. Vacher, and a great many other artists contribute pleasing and meritorious works, chiefly landscapes, to all of which it is impossible to call attention. Suffice it to say that the collection of the New Water-colour Society for the present year is, on the whole, highly interesting.

The Old Water-colour Society, which profits from time to time by accessions from the New, has also an admirable exhibition this year; but we are obliged to defer our criticism till next week.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

"The Barber of Seville," produced at the Royal Italian Opera, was attended by the largest audience assembled in the theatre since the commencement of the present season—an audience that could appreciate the music of Rossini, the singing of Mario, and the playing of the Covent Garden orchestra, which executed the overture to perfection and was forced to repeat it. Mme. Miolan-Carvalho appeared for the first time in England as Rosina, and sang very brilliantly, though it is but just to add that she lost no opportunity of disfiguring the music, or of "embellishing" it, as the phrase goes, the "Una voce" suffering particularly in this respect. In the singing-lesson scene, Mme. Carvalho introduced the celebrated vocal fantasia on the "Carnaval de Venise" from "La Reine Topaze," a piece which has been praised to excess by French critics, and which is about as awkward and ungraceful a piece as was ever written for the voice. It abounds in difficulties which might almost be termed obstacles, and which even Mme. Carvalho cannot overcome without an occasional stumble; but in beauty—excepting of course the theme, which the fair vocalist gives very charmingly—it is utterly wanting. In one variation Rosina (fancy the Spanish Rosina either of Beaumarchais or of Rossini singing such music!) begins the strain in the lowest depths of her voice, and then suddenly springs, *de profundis*, into the very highest vocal regions. To some it must have been very painful to listen to this, but the majority of the audience applauded the feat, with many others of equal difficulty and equal merit, in the most enthusiastic manner. Mario, on the other hand, was not applauded quite so much as he deserved, for never since we remember to have heard him did he sing more exquisitely and more expressively than on Tuesday evening. Mario, whenever he appears, sings at least a few bars, perhaps an entire air, in the "Huguenots," certainly a whole scene, much better than any one else could sing them. Last Tuesday, in the part of Almaviva, he gave the whole of his music in his best and greatest style from beginning to end. Ronconi, as the Barber, acted with great comic power, and sang like a true artist. Tagliafico, as Basil, was more industrious than successful; and the buffooneries of the usually meritorious Zelger, in the character of Bartolo, were really melancholy when they were not offensive. Nevertheless, we recommend every one who cares for good music to go to the Royal Italian Opera when the "Barber" is played—for the sake of Mario, for the sake of Ronconi, for the sake even of Mme. Miolan-Carvalho, that accomplished but perverse Rosina; for the sake of the unapproachable orchestra; and, finally, for the sake of Rossini's music.

"Don Giovanni" was produced on Saturday last at Her Majesty's Theatre, with Mlle. Titiens in the part of Donna Anna, Mme. Borghi-Mamo as Zerlina, and Mlle. Vaneri as Elvira. The Don Giovanni of the evening was Signor Everardi, Vialletti was the Leporello, and Giuglini, of course, appeared in the character of Don Ottavio, the music of which he sings to perfection. But neither of Giuglini's performance, nor of that of Mlle. Titiens, our incomparable Donna Anna, need we now speak; each is well known, and has been sufficiently, though in no wise unduly, praised in these columns. Signor Everardi deserves special mention for the talent with which he both acted and sung as Don Giovanni, a part in which all great baritones have their capabilities tested, and in which many, indeed, have been found wanting. At the Royal Italian Opera, so rich in baritones of the first class, it was thought necessary two years since to have the great work altered and disfigured by a singing-master named Alary so as to bring the music of the chief personage within the means of Signor Mario; and now, when M. Faure, who surely might make an attempt to play the part as it was originally written, is engaged at Covent Garden, we hear that the tenor, who, whether as an actor or a singer, is, we admit, still unapproachable, is again to appear as Don Giovanni. But to return to Her Majesty's Theatre. The most charming impersonation, then, of the evening—one which it is indeed a relief to behold after seeing Mlle. Piccolomini so often in the same part, and with the same company—was that of Zerlina by Mme. Borghi-Mamo, who sings the music of Mozart and of Rossini—all good music, in fact—to perfection, and who is, at the same time, a most accomplished actress in light as well as in serious characters.

Since the publication of our notice and portrait of Mme. Borghi-Mamo we have gathered some further particulars respecting her early life from the *Musical World* which our readers will perhaps find interesting. It appears that Mme. Borghi-Mamo—or, rather, Mlle. Borghi—manifested at a very early age a genius for dramatic singing. She was not twelve years old when, having taken her to a representation of Rossini's "Tancredi," her parents were astonished, on the following morning, to hear her repeat all the most striking melodies from that opera, among which, we may be sure, the celebrated "Di tanti palpiti" was not forgotten. The youthful Adelaide's passion for the Opera was so evident that her parents, who had no sort of liking for theatrical pursuits, resolved, if they could not restrain it, at least to do nothing that could in any way stimulate it. But Adelaide studied in secret, and one happy day succeeded in prevailing upon a friend to take her to the house of Rossini, where the great master heard her sing several of his compositions, himself accompanying her on the piano. The young artist—which, by instinct and intelligence she already was—trembled with excitement as she awaited the decision of the illustrious composer respecting her capabilities and chances of success in the career for which she felt so strong a vocation. Rossini did not keep her long in suspense, but, embracing her affectionately, said with enthusiasm, "You will one day be a great singer!" Adelaide Borghi's passion for singing was so strong, and it was so obstinately thwarted by her father and mother, that the consequence was a nervous fever, beneath which the poor girl was near succumbing. In her delirium she constantly repeated the name of Rossini, and exclaimed, in accents of despair, that he had told her she never would be a great singer. Adelaide's interview with Rossini appears to have been kept a secret from her relations; but the doctor, finding that her brain was tormented with ideas which Rossini alone could dispel, called upon the composer, who lost no time in returning with him to his patient's bedside. There he repeated to her again and again that she would indeed be a great singer; and his assurances and general kindness had the effect of allaying the delirium of the sick child. Rossini then convinced the parents of the inutilty, not to say cruelty, of ignoring—from a feeling which, however conscientious, was, after all, but a prejudice—an inclination that was irresistible, and which, properly directed, might lead to the happiest results.

The performance of "Elijah" at the Crystal Palace was a great suc-

cess in respect to attendance, but, as a performance, was less interesting than many of the same oratorios that we have heard, under Mr. Costa's direction, at Exeter Hall.

FLOGGED TO DEATH.

MR. THOMAS HOPLEY, a schoolmaster of Eastbourne, is charged with "killing and slaying Reginald Chancellor Cancellor, late one of his school pupils," by beating him to death, on the 21st of April. At the inquest the verdict was "That deceased was found dead, but that there was no evidence to show the cause of death;" because the surgeon (a neighbour of Mr. Hopley) gave evidence without having examined the body. When the case was taken before the magistrate other evidence was adduced which leaves less doubt on the matter.

The Rev. John Cancellor, of Send, Surrey, a brother of the deceased, said—Deceased was fifteen years of age. He had been at Mr. Hopley's since last October. I last saw my brother alive in February. I saw him dead on Wednesday, the 25th of April, at Eastbourne. I came to Eastbourne, in consequence of information I received, to make inquiries as to what had taken place at the inquest. Mr. Hopley came to me at the Burlington Hotel. I said that I was afraid there might have to be a post-mortem examination, as I was not satisfied as to the cause of death, and as there seemed to be discrepancies in the accounts which had been given of the occurrence. I asked Mr. Hopley why a medical man had not been sent for directly he discovered that the boy was dead? He said that I must make allowances for his agitation at the time. He had recently been so shocked at finding him dead that he did not wish anybody else to go suddenly into the room. His first impulse was to lock the door and then go for a medical man. He could not, however, lock the door, because he could not find the key. He thought it necessary, then, to break the intelligence to Mrs. Hopley and also to one of the servants. Mrs. Hopley and the servant were so distressed that he was unable to leave them for some little time. He then went to Mr. Roberts's (a surgeon's) house, and, as Mr. Roberts was not at home, left word for him to go to 22, Grand-parade, on his return. He then sent a telegraphic message to my father begging that he would come to Eastbourne by the earliest train. On his return he met Mr. Roberts in the street. Mr. Roberts had then been at his house, 22, Grand-parade, and, finding Mr. Hopley was not at home, had gone away. He took Mr. Roberts back with him, who saw the body and had every opportunity of examining it. Mr. Hopley said to me that he carried the boy up to his bedroom because he would not go when told, and he punished him in his bedroom. He told me that my brother took no notice of the punishment till after the last flogging, when he burst into a flood of tears; and then, he said, my brother put his hand on his breast and asked to be allowed to say his lessons. Mr. Hopley told me, in answer to my question, that he did not faint nor swoon.

Alice Deacon, housemaid to the prisoner, said—On Saturday, the 21st of April, at half-past nine in the evening, Mr. Hopley told me to send deceased to him in the dining-room. He was then in his usual health. About a quarter to ten I heard Mr. Hopley and Master Cancellor in the room. Mr. Hopley called him to the pupil-room, and after he had been there about five minutes I heard him beat him. I waited up till nearly eleven to take Master Cancellor's candle. He did not go to bed, and so I went to my bedroom, which is at the bottom of the house. Master Cancellor cried when Mr. Hopley was beating him, and sometimes ran about the room. It continued off and on from a quarter to ten to nearly half-past eleven, so far as I heard. Master Cancellor went to his bedroom about half-past eleven or twenty minutes to twelve. It seemed, by the noise they made going up stairs, that Mr. Hopley was either carrying or pushing him up. On Sunday morning I saw blood on the carpet in the pupil-room. It seemed as if it had been powdered and rubbed. After I had done that room I went up to Mr. Hopley's dressing-room, and I saw in a chair a pair of trousers and drawers. The left leg of the drawers and also the left leg of the trousers had been washed out and were wet. One sock was also wet, and the other sock had marks of blood on it. They were Master Cancellor's. In Mrs. Hopley's bedroom I saw that two dusters had been washed out. They were lying on the floor. There was a sheet in the dressing-room with marks of blood on it. I went up into the room next to Master Cancellor's room, and heard Mr. and Mrs. Hopley in his room. At a quarter-past eight Mr. Hopley rang his dressing-room bell, and called me in. He told me he had been to Master Cancellor's bedroom and had found him dead, and that he and Mrs. Hopley had made him comfortable. Mr. Roberts came about five minutes to nine. I went up stairs and asked Mrs. Hopley if I should ask him up, and she said "No." I did not go to Mr. Roberts again, he did not come up stairs then. I found Mr. Hopley's candlestick outside Master Cancellor's bedroom door, and the water-can inside the room. There were marks of blood on each.

Ellen Fowler, nursemaid to Mr. Hopley, said—At about a quarter to ten on the 21st of April I heard master beating the deceased in the pupil-room. About a quarter or ten minutes to twelve I heard master and Master Cancellor go up stairs, and it seemed to me as if Master Cancellor could not walk up of himself, and I thought master was pushing him up. When they got to Master Cancellor's bedroom master shut the door and went down stairs. He returned in about a minute, and when he again got to the room I heard him beat again. I heard my master say, "Now do, there is a dear good boy." After that he beat him again. Master Cancellor was saying his tables, and master said, "And four." Master Cancellor answered him. He beat him again, and he cried, screamed, and groaned. All at once all was still. I was sleeping in the nursery, next to Master Cancellor's room, and at a quarter after twelve mistress came to me, and said, "Why didn't you have your window open?" She went out and opened the window, and said, "Good night," and went out of the room and closed the door. Between twelve and one the key was taken out of my door, and I heard constant running up and down stairs. All at once I heard slushing of water and emptying of basins. This was going on in Master Cancellor's room. I also heard some one going down stairs and get some fresh water; I heard the tap run. About a quarter after seven in the morning I saw Mrs. Hopley go into the room with something white under her arm. As I was going down stairs, about five minutes to eight, I saw Alice Deacon with the candlestick; there were several spots of blood on it. About half-past eleven I went up to the pupil-room with the other servant, when Mr. Hopley told us Master Cancellor was dead. I had heard nothing of it till then.

The Chairman—Was Master Cancellor a difficult boy to manage?

Witness—He was very obstinate, Sir.

Dr. Robert Willis, of Barnes, Surrey, where the father of the deceased resides, detailed the results of a post-mortem examination:—"The general appearance of the body was that of a stout, muscular, well-developed boy. Extensive marks of bruising were about the arms and legs. The palm and back of the right and the back of the left hand were extensively bruised. There were extensive bruises on the thighs of both legs, on the front and back surfaces. All the bruised parts showed laceration of the cellular tissue and extensive extravasation of blood. Over the fore part of the right leg were found two wounds of the size of a sixpenny piece, which were round, and led directly down to the membrane covering the bone, and the muscle was torn away from the bone, so that the point of the finger could be inserted to the extent of three-quarters of an inch. Around this wound the muscular tissue was much inflated with blood. The second wound was about an inch in length, and gaping to the extent of about three lines. It was generally superficial, but in the centre the probe penetrated to the membrane of the bone. When the boy was undressed the wounds were found covered with black sticking-plaster." The doctor then proceeded to describe the body as exhibiting a perfectly healthy condition of the vital organs. There was nothing to lead him to suppose the deceased would have died a sudden death, nothing that led to the idea that he had died of natural causes.

After some further evidence the prisoner entered into a lengthy statement in defence. He maintained that he was as innocent of the charge as any person in the room, and, if he had done anything at all amiss, it was his great determination to do his duty. He admitted chastising the deceased, and said he left him asleep. The blood upon the candle-

stick and on the deceased's leg he accounted for from his (the prisoner) having a blister on his hand, which bled.

The prisoner was committed for trial, bail being accepted, himself in £1000, and two sureties in £500 each.

RAGGED SCHOOLS.—The report read at the annual meeting of the Ragged Schools Union on Tuesday shows that the number of Sunday schools in connection with the Union is now 199, with an average attendance of 21,800 scholars. There are also 146 day schools, with an average attendance of 15,389 scholars; and 215 evening schools, with an attendance of 9050; making a total of 560 schools, and 49,290 scholars. The scholars placed in situations during the past year number about 1650. The number rewarded for keeping their places for twelve months with good character is 870. The total amounts paid into the penny banks during the past year reached £8880. In no former year has it exceeded £4000. The sum drawn out was £7856. The number of depositors has also increased by 10,000, and now numbers 25,637.

THE CENSUS.—Bills are passing through Parliament for taking the census in 1861. The English bill contains a new requirement, that every person shall state what is his religious profession. Objection has been taken to this in some quarters, and it is said that many persons will find it difficult to range themselves. The Irish bill avoids bringing the point before Parliament by directing generally that an account shall be taken of all such particulars as the Secretary for Ireland shall indicate. The Council of the Statistical Society recommend that it be left optional whether an answer shall be given to the inquiry respecting religious profession, and they also suggest that some particulars be collected of the character as well as the number of the dwellings of the population, and that an effort be made to institute a decennial return of some kind of agricultural statistics, and to collect information respecting the income of charitable and beneficent societies and institutions, such as exist in nearly every parish and in connection with every place of worship.

LAW AND CRIME.

THERE are certain classes of crime apparently exceptional in themselves which nevertheless furnish recurring cases with something resembling regularity. There is the "respectable tradesman," who may be safely predicted about once a year to stand in a felon's dock, charged with some peculiarly shabby theft, committed apparently in utter absence of moderate temptation. Once in every seven years, on the average, a murdered body is found stripped and cut to pieces. Often than either of these cases appears the schoolmaster charged with brutally torturing his infant pupil. The course adopted with respect to him follows the time-honoured track. Magistrates view the victim, and, expressing horror and indignation, commit the offender for trial. Leading journals allow the public excitement to subside, and then publish the praises of flogging in schools. The child recovers from his wheals and the jury acquit the accused. However, Mr. Hopley, of Eastbourne, has been peculiarly unfortunate in qualifying himself to follow the road trodden by so many of his predecessors, since the object of his cruelty has died. The story is dreadful, and only a fitting warning to those thoughtless or wrongly-reasoning parents who intrust their children to flogging schools. At a quarter to ten o'clock at night on Saturday, the 21st of April last, Reginald Cancellor, a boy of fifteen, was summoned by his schoolmaster, Hopley, into the pupil-room. From that moment until half-past eleven the poor child appears to have endured an almost incessant thrashing. The unhappy boy's screams were heard by the servants and other inmates of this den of torture. One of them heard in the midst of the uproar some words which are terribly suggestive. "And four" was the exclamation of the child-tormentor, and shows that this dreadful infliction was only perpetrated in the course of teaching a pupil simple arithmetic when he ought to have been in bed. At twenty minutes to twelve the boy's body was either pushed up stairs dying or dragged up dead by his infuriate tutor. Next morning poor Reginald Cancellor was found lying on his bed, where the schoolmaster had, to use his own expression, "made him comfortable," by putting a clean nightshirt upon his corpse. There had been running up and down stairs after midnight a "slushing" of water, and a washing up of blood-stains from the drugget of the chamber. A post-mortem examination revealed the manner of death as something frightful beyond imagination. The poor child had not died from the effects of a chance mortal blow, but had actually perished under tortures too great for the physical powers of a strong healthy boy of his age. Pain and terror, physical and bodily torment, had been urged upon him beyond the limits mercifully assigned to natural endurance. His limbs were bruised and wounded, as if by a stick or rope—Hopley was accustomed to use both—and upon one of his legs a portion of flesh was torn or thrust from the bone. His hands, back and palm, had been beaten and bruised until even the substratum of tissue had been lacerated beneath the skin. Hopley has been committed to take his trial for manslaughter, though by what possible alleged provocation the crime of his slayer can be made to take this form remains as yet to be shown. But it is shocking to reflect on how slender a thread rests the chance of even punishment upon such offenders as this boy's tormentor. Had young Cancellor only recovered from his last fainting fit, he might, and probably would, have still remained subject, with his schoolfellows, to the mercies of Mr. Hopley. How many causeless, cruel thrashings must this schoolmaster have administered before bringing his feelings to such a pitch as to beat a boy to death at midnight over a sum in arithmetic!

On Friday week Pullinger was finally examined at the Mansion House, and committed for trial, on the charge of defrauding the Union Bank, his employers, of various sums, amounting in the whole to £263,000. He had declared his intention of pleading guilty. Edward George Lyttleton, the junior cashier of the bank, of which Pullinger was chief cashier, was at the same time charged with defrauding the bank of £1240 in one sum. This sum had been entered by Lyttleton as paid into the Bank of England, where no such sum had been received. It was, however, clearly shown that the money supposed to have been embezzled by Lyttleton had been by him paid to Pullinger, as chief cashier, as his request, for the purpose of such payment, and that Lyttleton had not converted a farthing to his own use. Pullinger himself, while admitting his own guilt, used his utmost endeavours to substantiate the innocence of Lyttleton, who was at length discharged "without the slightest stigma upon his character," as the Lord Mayor declared. Pullinger announced that for his own part he had done his utmost to atone for his crime "by leaving his wife without a bed to lie upon, and without any other clothes than those in which she was dressed." This curious system of "atonement," by making an innocent woman suffer needless misery in order to extenuate the offence of an actual criminal, can scarcely be expected to operate much in Mr. Pullinger's favour.

At an inquest held upon the body of one of two men who have been killed by the fist within the last few days, the man who struck the blow was not present, being detained by a magistrate on a charge of manslaughter. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure." The coroner, Mr. Wakley, said he thought, in the absence of the accused, they had delivered a very proper verdict. It seems that there is some jealousy of the magistracy entertained by the coroners in this respect of hindering alleged homicides from attending inquests. On the one hand, it is not appreciated how the view of one person supposed to have killed another can assist an inquiry into the cause of death, while, on the other, coroners and their juries naturally like to have a look at a murderer when he is caught. But how the absence of the accused can reduce a death by fighting to one by "misadventure" is what we should like to hear Mr. Wakley or any one else attempt to explain. The only meaning of his compliment appears to be that if juries are not indulged they may revenge themselves by verdicts against the facts. The magistrate, however, performed his duty, in spite of the coroner's verdict, by committing the prisoner for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

John Lucas was indicted at the Middlesex Sessions for stealing a portmanteau filled with property worth upwards of £50. The owner, Captain Wilkinson, proved that, having seen his portmanteau at the Darlington station on the Great Northern Railway on his way to town, he missed it at King's-cross. The prisoner was found pledging some of

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The Muslin Jacket, known as our Jacket, with Lace Epave, 10s. 6d.
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About 60 days have elapsed since we purchased the last lot at the Customs, which were sold directly, and many Customers disappointed, that we could not repeat their orders. We shall sell them as before. Fine French Cambric Handkerchiefs, that were 1, 2, and 3 guineas the Dozen, will be sold for 10s. 6d., 15s., and 20s.
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